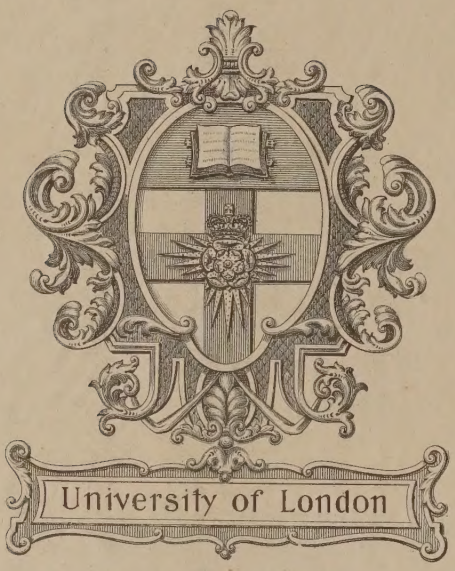
University of London

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

ELEVEN VOLUMES.

—*(7.)*—

BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS;
RATING OF MINES.

Session

30 *April* —— 28 *August* 1857.

VOL. XI.

1857—Sess. 2.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1857—Sess. 2.

ELEVEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

SEVENTH VOLUME.

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FIRST

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
6 *July* 1857.

151—Sess. 2.

Veneris, 15° *die Maii*, 1857.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Young Persons in the Bleaching and Dyeing Establishments in England, Scotland and Ireland, and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to those Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment; and to report their Observations thereupon to The House.

Lunæ, 18° *die Maii*, 1857.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Butt.	Mr. Clark.
Lord John Manners.	Mr. Cheetham.
Viscount Goderich.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Massey.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Fergus.	Mr. Packe.

Ordered, That the Committee have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Mercurii, 20° *die Maii*, 1857.

Ordered, That Mr. Davison be added to the Committee.

Jovis, 25° *die Junii*, 1857.

Ordered, That Viscount Goderich be discharged from further attendance, and that Mr. Crook be added thereto.

Ordered, That Mr. Fergus be discharged from further attendance, and that Mr. Dalgleish be added thereto.

Lunæ, 6° *die Julii*, 1857.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time to The House.

FIRST REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Children in the BLEACHING and DYEING ESTABLISHMENTS in England, Scotland and Ireland, and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to these Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment, and to Report their Observations thereupon to The House; and who were also empowered to Report from time to time the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them:—

HAVE taken Evidence upon a portion of the matters to them referred, and have agreed to Report the same to The House.

6 *July* 1857.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 5° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Packe.
Viscount Goderich.	Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Hugh Seymour Tremenheere, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. S. Tremenheere Esq.

5 June 1857.

1. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you were the Commissioner appointed in 1854 to examine and report upon the Bleaching and Dyeing Works?—I was.

2. Your report bears date the 7th of June 1855; that is above two years ago?—Just two years ago.

3. Have you, subsequently to that report, paid attention to the subject referred to in that report?—Not in the least. My time has been occupied in official duties of a totally different kind.

4. No fresh evidence has been brought before you either in favour of or against the recommendations that you made in 1855?—None at all.

5. And, so far as you are aware, the reasons which induced you to make that report still remain in force?—I presume so, though I can give no opinion upon that point, as I have had no means of learning.

6. Has your attention been called to the Bill which, subsequently to the date of that report, was proposed in Parliament?—I have seen that Bill, but, as I had fully discharged the duty which was imposed upon me as a commissioner, I have not felt it necessary to consider the Bill with a view to form any opinion as to its provisions.

7. Are there any further observations which you would wish to make upon the subject referred to this Committee?—I do not feel competent to add a word to what I stated in my report; and, inasmuch as two years have elapsed since my attention was called to those circumstances, I think it very probable that many things have passed from my recollection on which my own judgment was founded at that time.

8. Mr. *Turner.*] Have you taken no notice whatever of the proceedings of the bleachers since the time when you obtained the evidence upon which you founded that report?—None whatever.

9 Are you not aware that great improvements have taken place in the construction of the bleach-works since that date?—I have not the least idea of it.

10. We are not to consider that your evidence extends beyond the year 1855?—Clearly not since the termination of my inquiry, which was, I think, about the end of March 1855.

11. Then your means of knowledge does extend to the year 1855?—Up to that time.

12. But not beyond that?—No.

13. Viscount *Goderich.*] Do you consider that you have had full opportunity of inquiring into the subject?—I think I have; I certainly exceeded the amount of inquiry which several of the bleach-masters pointed out to me as necessary to form an opinion upon it.

 14. I need

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14. I need not ask you whether the recommendations which you made in this report are those which you thought, upon consideration of the facts which had been brought before you, were such as should be adopted by the Legislature?—That was so.

15. Mr. *Davison.*] Had you known anything of the bleaching department before you were appointed to inquire into it?—Nothing whatever; the appointment was conferred upon me by Lord Palmerston, without solicitation on my part, and without my being aware of his Lordship's intention; I had never seen a bleach-work before I entered upon the inquiry, and I did not know the nature of it.

16. How long were you occupied in your general inquiry upon bleach-works in each particular case?—I am not able to state precisely.

17. Did you spend as much as one day on each work?—A few hours, more or less.

18. That was all you spent in investigating any one work?—Yes.

19. Viscount *Goderich.*] Were not the facts that you had to inquire into, the length of hours, the result of the length of hours upon the health of the persons employed, and the temperature?—Yes; and the general appearance of the works and workpeople. I also took evidence from a considerable number of workmen as to their own feelings and experience.

20. Were you not as well able to judge of these facts by staying a few hours as if you had stayed a day?—In some of the works I stayed a short time, because the number of hands was few; in others I stayed longer.

21. Mr. *Davison.*] Did you investigate from the evidence of persons employed the length of time that they were occupied?—Yes.

22. How many witnesses did you examine at each of those concerns?—As many as I thought were sufficient to give me a satisfactory explanation upon it. I then invariably read over what they had said to somebody in authority on the spot, and asked whether it was a correct statement.

23. Mr. *Cobbett.*] By "somebody in authority," you mean the overseer or master bleacher?—When the master was on the spot I, of course, always first of all inquired for him; when he was not there, I inquired for the person under him; I inquired for the superior person on the spot at the time. I did not think it desirable to give notice of my intention to visit any bleach-work, and, therefore, very often when I came the master was not present; but I obtained the best evidence that I could at the moment.

24. Did you examine particularly the working people whom you found there?—Yes.

25. Did they generally express a desire that there should be legislation upon the subject of bleaching-works?—Certainly.

26. Did they complain that the hours of their work were excessive?—In a great majority of instances they did, as appears by the evidence published in my report.

27. Mr. *Turner.*] Did not that complaint refer to every occasional overwork?—Yes.

28. When there was great pressure of business in the works?—Yes.

29. Do you understand the nature of the bleaching business, and how uncertain it is as to constant employment?—Yes; that was a part of the evidence I took.

30. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do you remember some of the places you visited in Lancashire?—It is stated in my report.

31. Did you go to Bolton?—Certainly.

32. Did you go to Bury?—Yes; there is a list of the places I visited in my report.

33. How did you ascertain where there were bleach-works for you to examine?—Perhaps it would save time if I were briefly to state to the Committee the course I took in conducting this examination, confining myself to England. As I knew nothing whatever about the question when I came to Lancashire, I sent for a committee of the operatives who had been promoting this inquiry, and I assembled at Bolton on several occasions some 10 to 14 of those working men. Since they were, as it were, plaintiffs in the inquiry, I thought it no more than right and proper that I should hear their case first. I made them state to me their views, and I endeavoured to check the statements of one by inquiring of the others whether they concurred in those statements. When I had heard some amount of evidence, I then wrote it down and read it over to them; in that way I collected the evidence which occupies the first 11 pages of evidence appended to the report.

34. Is that the way you collected the evidence which is given in substance in the first 11 pages of your report?—Yes; of course there is a great deal more which I obtained at the different bleach-works; but from those witnesses who had been getting up the case on behalf of the operatives I obtained a general outline of their views, and also a list of the different bleach-works which it was desirable for me to visit, in order to verify the facts they stated. I then had the evidence of these delegates and committee-men printed, and I submitted it to some of the masters, especially, in the first instance, to Mr. Ainsworth, who is the chairman of the committee of the masters, and begged him to communicate it to the other members of the committee, in order that they might make their remarks upon it, and inform me how far they concurred in it. I do not think that I could have adopted any fairer course to both parties; and I may say, in my own justification, that during the examination of those working men, I did not put a single leading question to them, but endeavoured to draw out of them, as well as I could, what they meant to say. Of course I put down what they did mean to say in better language than they could have used themselves; but my belief is, that I have only communicated to the public the substance of their own observations and complaints. Then, after communicating their evidence to the masters, I had frequent interviews with many of the masters, and I proceeded then to visit the different works. The masters named to me 10 or a dozen, and I visited 17.

35. Viscount *Goderich.*] Seventeen works in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Seventeen works in Lancashire and Cheshire. I beg permission to read these sentences from my report: "A list of the bleaching and finishing works in Lancashire and Cheshire was furnished to me by the chairman of the Bleachers' Association, Mr. J. H. Ainsworth, which will be found at p. 19 of the Evidence; it is not a complete list, but contains the names of 35 establishments. I was informed by Mr. Ainsworth, and other gentlemen, that in order to obtain the general facts applicable to the whole trade, it would be sufficient for me to visit 10 or a dozen of those establishments; I visited, and took evidence at 17, nine of the rest being small works, employing from 50 to under 100 hands, and I also visited 10 others not upon that list, in the neighbourhood of Manchester." The communications which I had with Mr. Ainsworth, and other gentlemen, on behalf of the masters, resulted in their discussing with me, as I have mentioned in my report, what sort of restrictions might with safety be placed upon the employment of females and boys.

36. Mr. *Davison.*] Was your examination confined to workpeople, or did you examine and take evidence of masters as well?—Several masters.

37. Mr. *Turner.*] Will you give a list of the works that were visited by yourself, and on which you formed your judgment?—I can, from memory, mention to you a considerable number, but not the whole of the places; Mr. Ainsworth, Messrs. Ridgways, Messrs. Hardcastle, Messrs. Ridgway, Bridson & Company, Messrs. Blare & Sumner, Mill-hill, Bolton. The evidence taken in those works will sufficiently show what I have done. In my report I attach to each piece of evidence the name of the work at which it was taken; I can tell the Committee, by going through the evidence, distinctly every one. At page 46 Messrs. Ridgway's work is referred to, Messrs. Slater's, and Mr. Owell's, Mr. Sedden, of Brightbeach works, and Messrs. Hollins & Co., of Tothill-bridge.

38. Mr. *Davison.*] Out of those 17 places that you visited, how many of the masters did you examine?—I cannot say accurately from memory, but they are mentioned in the report. I thought that I examined a sufficient number of them.

39. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Will you let the Committee know the precise number of works that you visited, and the precise number of masters that you examined?—I will.

40. In examining those 17 works did you go through every one of them?—I went into the works and examined witnesses in each, sufficient as I believed to satisfy me as to the nature of the case.

41. And to justify your recommendation to the Government?—I think so; and I think, upon the whole, the recommendations there made are justified by the evidence I collected.

42. Did you find that the workpeople concurred with one another in all those works in their evidence and wishes?—I think that the great preponderance of the evidence was to the same effect; I took the evidence very much as it came, and I thought that by taking people whom I had never seen before, sometimes one after the other, sometimes fixing upon witnesses here and there, if I found a general concurrence, I was justified in assuming that the story I had heard from the committee-men was true.

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43. Did I rightly understand you to say that you began by assembling the committee-men or delegates of the workpeople?—Yes.

44. Were those working bleachers?—Yes.

45. They were men, I suppose?—Yes.

46. Did they direct your attention to the different works in the kingdom?—They did.

47. And I suppose you gathered from them what was the nature of the inquiry to be made?—Certainly.

48. In going through the establishments, did you notice whether there were principally men employed or young people, and in what proportions?—No, I did not take notice of the precise proportions.

49. Did you see whether there were any young people and females?—Yes.

50. A considerable number?—Yes.

51. How young should you suppose they were, generally?—I cannot at this time recall to my mind what the proportion of the very young people was; but certainly I found in most of the works several very young children.

52. Viscount *Goderich.*] Did you find them as young as eight?—I cannot state from memory, at this moment, whether there was any as young as eight; but if I saw any particularly young, I naturally examined them to ascertain the effect of the employment upon them.

53. Mr. *Cobbett.*] What was the nature of their complaint principally?—That they were wearied by the long hours in the works.

54. Did they complain that it affected their health?—Many of them did.

55. Did you observe any who appeared to be suffering?—Certainly; a considerable number of them had an appearance that indicated their having been subject to overwork.

56. Did the workpeople generally concur in a desire to have some legislative interference in the matter?—Yes.

57. After examining the workpeople, you then had a conference, as I understand, with the masters?—I had.

58. Did you find that the masters themselves objected to all legislative interference, or that their objection was only as to the mode and extent of it?—That was it.

59. Then both the masters and the workpeople, as I understand, were agreed in opinion that there ought to be some legislative interference?—They were.

60. Did the masters think that that necessity arose from the long hours of work?—Exactly.

61. Did you examine any other class of persons; did you see any medical men?—I saw two or three medical men at Bolton, but I felt it unnecessary to examine personally many of them, because of a petition which had been signed very extensively by the medical men of Bolton, and also of Manchester and Salford, which petitions I have printed in my report.

62. At what page is that?—The petition of the clergy and medical men of Bolton is given at page 12 of the evidence, and that of the clergy and medical men of Manchester and Salford at page 100. The latter is headed as follows: "To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, the humble Petition of the undersigned Clergymen and Members of the Medical Profession of the borough of Manchester and Salford, in the county of Lancaster."

63. Was there a petition from Bolton also?—Yes.

64. It was in consequence of seeing those petitions that you thought it unnecessary to examine medical men?—Yes.

65. Did you examine any?—I examined two or three at Bolton.

66. Mr. *Turner.*] Is not this petition chiefly signed by clergymen?—There are several medical men who have signed it.

67. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did the medical men give you any statement with regard to any particular complaints brought on the bleachers by their long hours of work?—They did.

68. Did they describe them?—They mentioned that several complaints were brought on by long hours of work.

69. Did they think it necessary that there should be legislative interference to shorten the hours of work?—They did.

70. Did you examine any clergymen in Lancashire or Cheshire with regard to the condition of the bleachers?—I do not think I did; I thought that the petition

so extensively signed by clergymen and medical men sufficiently expressed their general opinion upon that subject.

71. Did you ever hear the operative bleachers contrast their condition with the condition of factory hands, who are protected by legislative interference?—Yes, and they expressed a desire to be equally protected.

72. In what respect did they think that the factory hands were better off than they were?—They thought that they were in some works so constantly liable to work very long hours, and frequently at different times, that they wished to have the same protection as the factory hands; the 10 hours' Bill, in fact.

73. Did they say anything with regard to the impossibility of gaining any instruction?—Yes; it was one of their prominent complaints that the long hours that they worked were a considerable obstacle to their general mental improvement.

74. Did they tell you of any attempts that they had made to form libraries, at Bolton, in particular?—Yes.

75. Did they tell you that they had succeeded or failed?—That they had failed.

76. Did they tell you about any factory hands who had formed libraries which had succeeded?—Yes, I think they did.

77. Mr. *Turner.*] Did they tell you of the factory hands having formed libraries themselves?—I think so; but I cannot pledge myself from recollection at this distance of time to these particulars.

78. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did they tell you anything of bazaars established for selling needlework made by factory women?—The evidence of Mr. Henry Waring, a bleacher, who took a very active part in this inquiry, is to the effect in several portions of it, that the efforts made by the people in the bleaching-works to establish libraries, and otherwise to improve themselves, failed in consequence of the long hours of work.

79. Mr. *Packe.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that the total number of works visited was 27?—The total number visited was 27.

80. Including the 17 in Lancashire and Cheshire?—The total number in Lancashire and Cheshire; 17 of those on the list given me by Mr. Ainsworth, and 10 not upon that list, in the immediate neighbourhood of Manchester.

81. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did you go through the establishments, and see all the different processes that were performed?—Yes.

82. Did you see that it was impossible to leave off certain works; for instance, that if they had begun the process of drying or bleaching it was impossible to leave off until they had concluded the process?—That was the statement of several of the masters to me. I made distinct inquiries of the men, and I also had the particular processes described to me in the different works, and they assured me that, by a little management, it would be perfectly possible to arrange the works, within very small limits, so as to be able to stop at a particular time.

83. Did you speak on that subject with people who understood the work?—Yes, with persons very competent to speak. I have given the evidence of persons who have had long experience in the trade. But on these points I can only repeat their statements. I am not able to say anything on my own authority, and the Committee will be better informed by calling some of those persons before them.

84. Mr. *Davison.*] Had not the complaints which were made by the work-people had reference alone to in-door employment alone?—Principally to in-door employments; principally to the finishing.

85. In the rooms?—In the rooms; in the finishing rooms in particular.

86. Is not there a considerable portion of the work in the bleaching works which is carried on outside altogether?—Not outside altogether; it is carried on in cool places.

87. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do I rightly understand you to tell the Committee that there is no open-air bleaching in Lancashire and Cheshire?—No; it is entirely abandoned, as I understand.

88. Mr. *Turner.*] Are the Committee to understand from your evidence that the women and young persons in those establishments are overworked?—Yes.

89. What is your impression as to the number of hours a day that they are worked?—I do not think it is possible to say, with any precision, the total amount of hours worked by the young persons in the bleach-works in Lancashire.

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5 June 1857.

There are no means of ascertaining that fact with accuracy; but the purport of the whole of their evidence was, that they were very much overworked.

90. You have expressed your own opinion to that effect; will you state to the Committee upon what that opinion is founded?—If the question refers to the exact number of hours worked, I cannot give it. My opinion was founded on the evidence printed in my report. Paragraph 254 of the evidence shows the necessity of examining narrowly with the books before you, any statement as to the average number of hours worked within a given time, prepared by a manager of a work.

91. Do the unreasonably extended hours that they are occasionally worked occur constantly?—The evidence, I believe, shows that the occasions when they work overwork, to a greater or lesser extent, are very frequent; sometimes for months together.

92. Could you tell the number of hours per day at which you consider a constant or very extended working goes on?—I do not think I am justified in laying down any particular rule as to that. I might have been able to give a clearer answer two years ago; but at present I should not like to pledge myself to say whether, in those works where the overwork is general, it amounts to two, three or four hours beyond the 10; but my general impression is, that it is within those limits.

93. What do you fix as the standard amount of work?—Ten hours.

94. Do you say that that amount is frequently exceeded?—Frequently.

95. Did you inquire whether occasionally the employers of labour were so short of work as not to employ them even for 10 hours?—Sometimes that will happen, and that is one of the arguments used by the masters against legislation.

96. Is it the fact that they are occasionally very short of work?—It is the fact, I believe, that they are occasionally very short of work.

97. Of course, at that period, they have a considerable portion of the 10 hours at their own disposal?—Yes.

98. Do you think that upon the average they work much more than 10 hours a day, taking all the year round?—At some of the works I have no doubt that if you took the average of the year you would find that they did not work 10 hours.

99. But occasionally they work 12 or 13?—Yes, and occasionally a great deal more than that.

100. What is the reason that they occasionally work these excessive hours?—From the occasional demands for their labour.

101. Why is the trade so very fluctuating in its demands?—The masters allege that it arises from the demands made upon them by the Manchester merchants to furnish the goods.

102. Why are the Manchester merchants so unreasonable as to require that extra exertion occasionally?—The masters are of opinion that the Manchester merchants oblige them to do it necessarily.

103. That the Manchester merchants cannot avoid occasionally putting them to that pressure?—Yes.

104. From whence arises that necessity upon the merchant?—From the demand upon him to supply his customers either in the home or the foreign market.

105. Do you suppose that the Manchester merchant can control the foreign or the home demand, or that he can fix whether he shall supply his goods more or less rapidly?—Certainly not; but the whole question of the danger or facility of legislation arises upon that very point, whether an adjustment can be made that will prevent the necessity of those extraordinary demands upon the labour of the hands in the bleach-works.

106. Then allow me to ask you, as you have had considerable experience of these bleach-works, whether you are of opinion that it would be a wise course for the Legislature to say that when there is no demand the bleacher shall work the full hours, and when there is a considerable demand to meet the foreign market he shall be prevented from extraordinary exertion to meet that demand?—The result of the evidence which I obtained at Manchester among the merchants, was strongly to impress in my mind the fact that neither for the home nor for the foreign market was it necessary that these sudden demands should be made upon the bleachers.

107. Mr. *Packe.*] Do I rightly understand you to say, from your examinations of medical faculty, that it appeared that it was by long hours of work that diseases were brought on?—Yes.

108. Did you gather from them that those diseases were at all owing to the atmosphere

atmosphere of the rooms in which the works were carried on?—To some extent doubtless it was so, because the temperature is very high in some of the rooms.

109. Did you understand at all that there was anything noxious in the materials used in bleaching?—No, I believe not.

110. Mr. *Turner*.] Did not you say that the appearance of many of those work-people indicated sickness?—Yes.

111. What nature of complaint did they seem to be particularly afflicted with?—I am not competent to state the nature of their complaints; I was impressed with the fact that a considerable number of them had an unhealthy look.

112. It is often said that the people engaged in those works are subject to particular complaints or diseases; did you from the inquiry you made find out what particular diseases affected those people?—I can quite understand that young females subject to those occasional pressures of work for days and weeks together, might be seriously injured in their health at a particular time of their lives, and I understand that that is the case.

113. That injury does not arise from any particular danger attending the bleaching operations, but from overwork generally?—From overwork.

114. Is not the same thing complained of by the needlewomen in London; do not they complain that they are affected in the same way by over-confinement and close atmosphere?—It is not so much the over-confinement as being so constantly upon their legs during the time they are employed that injures them.

115. In what processes is that required?—In the various processes connected with what is called finishing the goods.

116. Are many of the young people employed in the finishing department?—Principally in that department. I believe that practical men will confirm what I have stated upon the subject.

117. *Chairman*.] I see, upon referring to page 8 of your report, you say that the disease of which people and young children complain most is "sore feet;" is not that so?—That is one complaint.

118. Does that refer to those who are employed in "hooking"?—Yes; being constantly upon their legs, and engaged in rapid movements, they complain of sore feet and swelled ankles.

119. Is the Committee to understand that that arises from the continuous hours of labour to which they are subject for months together?—Exactly.

120. Is it your opinion that that complaint would be produced by the system of 10 hours' work spread continuously over the year, so much as by the system of long hours for several months of the year, and seven, eight, or nine hours during the remaining portion of the year?—Clearly it is more likely to be produced by occasional very long hours.

121. It is not your opinion as regards the working people, that a certain number of hours spread over the whole year is the same as a great number of hours for a portion of the year, followed by a smaller number of hours for the remaining portion?—What the young people suffer from is the practice of working a considerable number of hours for a portion of the year; if that portion is a large one, as is the case in many works, it is of little avail that for the rest of the year they do not work even 10 hours. Excessive hours, even for a short portion of the year, may be, and I believe from the evidence often is, very injurious to the health of the young people.

122. Mr. *Turner*.] Do you think it is possible that the bleach-works can be regularly employed for 10 hours a day as a mill or a factory can?—I think that many witnesses may be called before the Committee more competent than I am to give definite information upon that point. All I pretended to do during my inquiry was to do my best to satisfy my own mind that it was possible to make a considerable approach to it as regards the greatest number of bleaching-works; I can give no further information upon that point than I have given in my report.

123. We can understand that in a factory where the raw material is always in the hands of the owner of the factory it can be kept regularly employed during certain hours; but, considering that (as you have already said) the merchants do not supply, and cannot supply the bleachers with work regularly, and their raw material is therefore uncertain, how do you arrange that they should have employment 10 hours a day regularly?—As I understood, the opinion of the masters was this, that the merchants had no option in the matter; that they were obliged by a sudden call upon them to make a sudden call on the bleachers. In answer

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to that, it is said that whereas formerly both the foreign and the home markets were season markets, and therefore required their supplies to be got ready by a certain time, now, from the facilities of communication both at home and with the Continent, that is less and less the case; and that, therefore, by a little foresight among the merchants and a little arrangement among the bleachers, the work might be more evenly distributed.

124. Is that your own opinion, or is it what you have heard?—That is my own opinion, formed from the opinions of some very experienced merchants, and gathered also from the conversations I had with competent persons, and inquiries that I made at the time.

125. Viscount *Goderich.*] I believe you examined the merchants at Manchester?—I did.

126. Can you give the names of the gentlemen you examined?—Messrs. Barbour & Fleming, Messrs. Pender & Cowen, Mr. Scott, partner in the firm of Jones, Brother & Co., Mr. Leisler, a partner of the firm of Dufay & Co., Mr. Leopold Reiss, Mr. J. Slagg, Mr. A. S. Thornton, Mr. Kling, of the firm of Reus & Kling, Mr. Mather, of the establishment of Messrs. Bannerman, and Messrs. Schunk & Souchay, as conversant with the continental trade.

127. What opinion did those gentlemen give you upon the subject?—The master bleachers had referred me to 14 principal merchants in Manchester; two or three more were named to me who were connected with the home trade; but I had examined so many of the gentlemen connected with the home trade, that I did not think it necessary to examine more; but I took the evidence of 14 merchants, and out of those 14, 10 did not support the views of the masters, and 4 did.

128. Were those the 14 gentlemen whom you were recommended to go to by the masters themselves?—Yes.

129. Are you satisfied with the proof that they do not concur with the masters?—Yes; they do not.

130. Were they persons largely engaged in the trade, and competent to give an opinion?—They were among the most important merchants in Manchester. The four that did not concur were certainly quite equal in standing, if not superior to some of the rest; but in receiving information from different gentlemen, one is naturally inclined to weigh rather than to number their opinions, and it is not difficult to judge whether a gentleman has given a full consideration to a subject, and is likely to look at it from an unbiassed point of view or not; and therefore I felt satisfied that I could rely very strongly upon the evidence given me by those 10 out of the 14 merchants.

131. Do you think the weight of the evidence was in favour of the opinion of the 10 gentlemen?—Certainly, very greatly so, I should say.

132. Mr. *Turner.*] In your report you say, "Those names will be at once recognised as comprising nearly the whole of the principal mercantile firms in Manchester, the nature of whose business causes them to be in frequent communication with the bleachers, and acquainted with the peculiarities of their trade." Are you sufficiently acquainted with the mercantile firms of Manchester to know that to be the fact?—I state that upon the authority of the masters who named the merchants to me; I knew nothing of either the one or the other when I went down; it is no judgment of my own; I took it entirely from the information of the master bleachers.

133. Viscount *Goderich.*] Will you tell the Committee who were the gentlemen who advised you to apply to those merchants?—Mr. Hardcastle was the gentleman who gave me the list I have given to the Committee, and I am pretty sure that I asked several other gentlemen whether there were any others whom it would be desirable for me to consult.

134. Mr. *Massey.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that there was a general concurrence of opinion among the masters that some legislative provision was necessary?—Yes.

135. Was that opinion given upon the occasion of your submitting the statement of the workpeople to them?—It was upon the occasion of my submitting the printed statement of the workpeople.

136. Did the masters generally express any opinion as to whether that statement was exaggerated, or substantially accurate?—They expressed a general concurrence in its accuracy; they of course objected to certain misapprehensions on the part of the workmen. The evidence was returned to me, as appears by the evidence of the

the masters themselves, without any important exceptions being taken to its accuracy.

137. Did you understand that the opinions of the masters with reference to the necessity of legislation referred to the necessity in respect to the extreme pressure upon the women and children physically, or morally?—Both.

138. Was that particular point brought to the attention of the merchants who were asked to revise the opinion of the masters?—Certainly.

139. Did they express a difference of opinion upon this particular point to that of the masters?—Not generally; the great majority of them concurred in it.

140. I need hardly ask you whether the merchants had the same opportunities of observation as to those matters as the masters?—Not quite the same; but still, gentlemen living in the neighbourhood, and very much mixed up with all the employments of that part of the country, would be competent to form a general opinion.

141. Were those statements of the workpeople given to you in the presence of their overlookers or their masters, or by themselves?—I thought it very improbable that the workpeople would tell me the whole truth if I first of all asked them the question in the presence of their masters; every person must be aware that there is a great apprehension on the mind of a workman when he has to make a statement of that kind; and in fact, several of the men whom I wished to have called before me, in consequence of what I heard from the members of the working committee, refused to come, feeling that if their evidence came to the knowledge of their masters they would be discharged; my course, therefore, in taking the evidence of the workpeople, was to ask them to tell me their story in plain words, and after I had taken it down and read it over to them, I then submitted it to some person at the moment, in authority, to see if it was true.

142. Did any of the workpeople come forward to say that they did not concur in the complaints of the other workmen?—No. The whole of the operatives in that district were aware at the time that this inquiry was going on, inasmuch as it was mentioned in the local papers; on all sides it excited general interest, and I had frequent messages on their part to know when I was coming to examine particular works.

143. Though you had no particular knowledge of the bleaching-works at the time when you went down upon this inquiry, had not you had an extensive acquaintance with factories?—Not with factories; my duties related to inquiries into the state of the mining population.

144. Do you know the print-works?—Only by private inquiry, sufficient to enable me to satisfy my mind that it would be desirable to extend the principle of the education clauses of the Print Works Act to boys working in the mines and collieries.

145. In what part of the report do you go into that question with regard to the discussion between the merchants and the bleachers?—In the report, it is at page ix; from ix to xii.

146. The difficulty in that respect was first told to you by the master bleachers, was not it?—Yes.

147. They suggested that there would be a difficulty in regulating the number of hours' work by law, in consequence of the irregularity of the work that they were obliged to engage in?—Exactly.

148. Then did they state to you that they were engaged by the merchants?—Yes.

149. Then they referred you to the merchants?—Yes.

150. And they named to you a number of merchants whom you have named to the Committee?—Yes.

151. And when you did go to those merchants, you found that the majority of them stated that there was no such difficulty, in point of fact?—That the difficulty was greatly exaggerated, and might be overcome by a little arrangement, in a great majority of instances.

152. At page ix of your report you say, "It became necessary for me, therefore, to seek the opinions of the principal Manchester merchants upon this point, and accordingly Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. Ridgway Bridson and Mr. Bealey, who, with Messrs. Blair & Summer, are deemed generally to represent the bleaching and finishing trade of that part of the country, named to me 14 of the principal mercantile firms of Manchester whom they wished me to consult upon the subject." Was it their recommendation that led you to go to those firms in

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Manchester in order to ascertain from them why it was that they caused the bleachers to perform this irregular work?—Precisely.

153. And you found upon referring to those merchants at Manchester that a very little trouble indeed would render it needless that there should be those irregularities?—That was their opinion.

154. Mr. *Turner*.] Who is that trouble to be taken by?—By the bleachers and by the merchants. The bleachers would tell the merchants that they could not execute those orders in the same rapid manner that they have hitherto been accustomed to do, if the law prevented it. The bleacher would say to the merchant, I cannot execute these orders so suddenly as formerly; you must give me more time.

155. Did the master bleachers, or any of them, complain that work was thrust upon them in such quantities to be finished in so short a time that they themselves would have liked to be relieved from it?—Certainly: it was the general complaint; they said that they did not wish it; it was disadvantageous to them; that the goods finished in that rapid manner were not so well finished as they would be if they had more time; that was also stated by several of the merchants; and moreover the merchants informed me that it was only as regards fine goods that those "pushes," as they are called, were most general and most difficult to be avoided, and that that constituted a very small portion of the total amount of the goods which were finished in Lancashire and Cheshire; and that as regards the common goods, the shirtings and so forth, both the home and the foreign trade was becoming less and less a season trade, and that a little forethought would enable the merchant to regulate his demands upon the bleachers so as to enable the bleachers to spread their portion of the work more regularly over the year.

156. Mr. *Davison*.] Must not the difficulty be felt by the merchant as well as by the bleacher?—The answer to that was, that upon some previous occasion it was thought that it would be impossible to induce the merchants of Manchester to shorten the hours at which their goods were delivered, so as to avoid the necessity of employing their men in certain processes in after hours; but a little resolution has enabled them to do that.

157. Are you aware that much of this pressure arises from the sailing of vessels at particular times and at particular seasons of the year; when there is likely to be a wind in one direction, and another, it is very desirable to get the vessel off to sea?—I think it is apparent from the evidence of the ten merchants whom I have referred to, that admitting this to be the case to a certain extent, it could only apply to a comparatively small portion of the whole trade of the year, and that if one cargo was too late for one season, a particular bleacher or a particular merchant might suffer to that extent, but that the total aggregate trade of the country would not be affected by that.

158. Are you aware that a vessel very often has on board for a certain market an assorted cargo of various descriptions of goods, some of them depending upon the bleacher delivering in time, and that if that vessel goes to that market without the whole of that assorted cargo, the value of that cargo would be deteriorated? That the Manchester merchants took those circumstances into consideration in the opinion that they gave me; but they did not attribute any great weight to it in reference to the great transactions of the year.

159. Would you think it desirable that the vessel should go to sea with an unassorted cargo, not suited for the market to which it is going, rather than a little extra exertion should be used by the bleacher to get his portion of the cargo ready in time for the sailing of the vessel?—It is a question for the Legislature to determine whether the amount of physical suffering and moral disadvantage to the community arising from that habit is sufficient to justify an interference with it.

160. Do you consider that the Manchester merchant can regulate the order coming in to him for goods?—He cannot.

161. Orders come in at unexpected periods, and sometimes in unlimited quantities?—Yes.

162. If that be so, and he applies to a bleacher to have that work executed, must not that irregularity still exist?—The answer to that is, that at present the merchants are inclined to apply to one or two particular bleachers; but if the hours were regulated so as to prevent those particular bleachers from executing that amount of work within the given time, the merchants would have to apply to three or four. As regards common goods,—the great proportion of the whole trade,—

trade,—the evidence is clear that no difficulty could arise; as regards a certain portion of the fine goods requiring a particular stamp or a particular treatment, a difficulty might arise; but I understood from the merchants that they were not so limited to any particular bleachers even of fine goods as to be likely to feel any great disadvantage from the change of circumstances, except in cases which might be considered as exceptional.

163. Mr. *Baxter*.] I understood you to say that you had found 10 merchants who were anxious to relieve those operations of business at particular times?—Yes.

164. Did you find any masters concur with the 10 merchants that by a particular arrangement the evil might be remedied?—There were some of the masters who concurred in that view; and it was obvious, in going through the district, that capital was being laid out in new works, and new machinery was being erected; and I believe that practical men, and the operatives who gave evidence before me, were clearly of opinion that this improved machinery and increase of buildings would go very far towards enabling a greater amount of work to be done, especially by bleachers of fine goods, in a certain time, if legislation took place.

165. Are you of opinion that hitherto the supply of the bleaching works has not been sufficient to meet the demand?—I am not prepared to say that; I merely mention the fact that, according to my own observation at the time, I found that new works were being erected, and additions were being made to old ones, and new machinery was being put in, the result of which I understood from the operatives to be, to enable the bleach-masters to execute a greater amount of work within a given time, supposing they were driven by legislation to make the alteration.

166. Mr. *Turner*.] Could they execute their work at the same cost?—That was a question more for them than for me; I merely mention what my observation has been.

167. Viscount *Goderich*.] Is the result of your inquiry this, that a length of hours, such as 12 or 14, in the temperature of those bleach-works, continued for a month, or some period of that description, would be likely to be injurious to the health of women and young persons?—I should think there could be no question about it. I know it is asserted by several of the masters that the general appearance of the people in the bleach-works is healthy; as far as the men are concerned, and particularly those engaged in the bleaching part of the process and not in the finishing, that is very true; and also as regards the females in those departments, more so than in the others; but I think it must be obvious that long hours will produce an effect, and also, that supposing any boys or females to be incapacitated from work in consequence of those long hours, there are others to be had to take their place; so that in going over the bleach-works and noticing only those that appear to be ill, you are obliged necessarily to leave out of view those who have had their health injured, and who are no longer able to continue at the work. I remember that it was a common expression among them, that if a girl or a boy left the bleach-work it was said, "Oh, they are not up to this hard work, or this kind of work;" and therefore the healthy appearance of the people employed, especially the adults, in the bleach-works, if it is a fact, is no proof that long hours do not have a very prejudicial effect upon a good many others.

168. Then in your opinion it will not remove your objection to long hours if it were to be shown that the average throughout the year is not more than nine or ten hours?—Clearly not.

169. Mr. *Packe*.] Was it only in Bolton that you examined medical gentlemen?—It was only in Bolton.

170. Were there no medical gentlemen examined in Manchester?—No; the Manchester petition I thought might be safely taken as a satisfactory indication of their opinion, and I did not wish to encumber my report with unnecessary evidence.

171. Mr. *Turner*.] Do you wish to lead the Committee to suppose that the generality of the men and the women whom you saw were healthy looking?—In one portion of the work they were; the generality of the adults were so in the bleaching part.

172. Were they generally healthy looking, or were they not?—I must repeat my previous answer, that in the portion of the works consisting of the bleaching, which is a good deal in the air (not in the open air, but in airy buildings), the appearance of the people was generally healthy; but in the finishing departments,

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in some of which they are exposed to a high temperature and in others to constant movement, I think I may say decidedly, that the general appearance of the young people was not healthy.

173. You mean the children?—Yes, and the young women.

174. Did not you also say, that you felt that many had left from their constitutions not being able to stand the work?—Certainly; that was the evidence given to me by many people. The opinions of Dr. Garstang, who has been in medical practice at Bolton for 13 years, and of Mr. Robertson who has practised there for 30 years, are distinctly to that point. (Evidence, p. 12.)

175. Did you see the evidence of that?—I had no opportunity of seeing it myself; I inferred it from the statements of persons on the spot.

176. Are there not, in all classes of society, weakly constitutions that cannot stand a great amount of work?—I do not believe that there are many classes that have to go through such hard work occasionally as among the young in the bleaching-works many are called upon to do.

177. Viscount *Goderich.*] Do you, or do you not, consider that in consequence of the heat the injurious effects of these works is increased?—I should presume that it must be so, because the physical exhaustion must be so much greater.

178. Can you state to the Committee what is the average temperature of the bleaching stoves in England?—The temperature ranges from 90° to 120° (pp. 1. 9.); it is in some places higher (p. 10.).

179. Does not it result, from your evidence, that the heat of the stoves in England is considerably lower than it is in Scotland and Ireland?—Yes.

180. *Chairman.*] You were asked whether the adults that you saw did not seem to be healthy; did you propose, in your recommendation, to interfere with the labour of adult males?—Certainly not.

181. Did not you say that the appearance of many of the children indicated ill health?—Yes; the appearance of those who were employed in the finishing department.

182-3. Is it not for this that legislation is intended?—Yes.

184. Viscount *Goderich.*] Have not your remarks hitherto been confined to the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire?—Yes.

185. What is your opinion as to the nature of the employment in the woollen dyeing works?—That the number of boys and females employed in those works is not great, and the employment is a healthy one. They do not work habitually beyond the usual hours, which are from 6 to 6, with generally two hours for meals.

186. Would you consider the employment in those works to be more healthy than those in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Yes.

187. Would it not result from the statements you have just made that there was not the same necessity for any legislation with regard to them as there was with reference to the other works to which you have alluded?—That is the result of my inquiry. There is not the same necessity; but I state also (p. xxxvi), that if the Legislature should deem it expedient to include them in a general measure; there would be no great difficulty in the way of their conforming to it.

188. Have you made inquiries of the same description in those districts as you have in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Yes, precisely.

189. And you obtained the same amount and description of evidence in the same way?—Yes.

190. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Have you had any opportunity of making any particular comparison between the operatives employed in the bleach-works and the operatives employed in the cotton-mills?—No; I am very little conversant with the manufacturing districts.

191. You said that the operatives leave the bleach-works occasionally in consequence of ill-health; did many instances come within your own observation?—I did not state it as a matter of my own observation; I said I had no opportunity of observing it, but I stated it merely on the evidence of persons whom I called before me.

192. You say that the adults in those works are generally healthy; did you inquire of many of them how long they had worked in the establishment?—Yes, I did, and several of them informed me that they had worked for many years.

193. At what period of their life had they commenced working; did they learn their trade as young people?—Yes; many of them had been for 10, 15, or 20 years in the works.

194. Were there not some older than that?—I dare say many were older.

195. Did

195. Did those men look healthy?—Yes; but still I beg to apply my answer specially to those men employed in bleaching, and not in the finishing departments.

196. In the finishing departments you did not find them healthy?—I am not prepared to say that; many of the men in the finishing departments looked unhealthy, for the reasons I have given before; I said that men with strong constitutions can go through it.

197. What kind of employment do those people seek, who, from ill health, leave those bleach-works?—I am so little acquainted with this district, that I am not able to answer that question.

198. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are there in Lancashire and Cheshire, as well as in Ireland and Scotland, any processes connected with bleaching and dyeing dependent upon the state of the weather?—None, that I am aware of, all the bleaching operations in Lancashire and Cheshire being conducted, I believe, in houses, and not in the open air.

199. And dependent upon the action of chemical substances?—And dependent upon the action of chemical substances.

200. Viscount *Goderich.*] Have you considered the question whether the education of the children could be provided for by legislation?—Yes.

201. And I find at page xix of your report that you are of opinion that no proceedings of that description will be required; is not that so?—Yes.

202. Will you state to the Committee your reasons for arriving at that conclusion?—Previously to the child arriving to the age of 11, which was the limit that I proposed to take for legislation, he would have had an opportunity of school instruction, which would, in all probability, considering that the growing disposition among the working classes towards education and the greatly increased number and efficiency of schools, have been, to a certain extent, taken advantage of. I say, in my report, to introduce the system of compulsory attendance for children of 11 years of age, which, according to the analogy of the factories, I apprehend could only be of two years' duration, would probably be acknowledged to be inexpedient.

203. Will you tell the Committee at what age children begin to work in the collieries?—At 10 years of age.

204. Did not you think the system of compulsory education to be efficacious with regard to those children?—I then thought, as I do now, that it is very desirable that the principle of the Print Works Act should be applied to boys working in collieries between the ages of 10 and 14.

205. Did not you make a suggestion of that description to the Committee which sat upon Accidents in Coal Mines in 1854?—I did.

206. Why do not you entertain the same opinion with reference to children employed in bleaching works?—Because I take the age of 11 in the bleach-works as the age up to which they should be excluded; and I do not think that, as a general principle, it is desirable to interfere with the freedom of action of the working classes, except when a very strong case of necessity is made out.

207. Are you aware of the effect which the educational clauses of the Factory Act have had upon the districts to which they are applicable?—Only from general information and from conversation with the factory inspectors, who are strongly of opinion that the educational clauses of the Factory Act are gradually producing a very improved condition, both intellectually and morally, among the labouring classes of the factory districts.

208. Is not that the portion of the Factory Act that is considered the least objectionable by all parties?—I understand that that is the case.

209. Therefore if you approve of such a legislation with regard to bleach-works, might you not introduce the clauses which, in the case of other employments, have led to such good results, and have been so little objected to?—I should not object to see them introduced, provided it was found that it could be done without any serious inconveniences, especially if their introduction would carry with it the public opinion of the persons concerned.

210. Did you put any question either to the masters or to the men upon that portion of the subject?—I did, and the general impression on my mind is that they would rather not be interfered with.

211. Did you find any special objection to provisions of that kind?—The impression left upon my mind is, that by excluding children from the works up to the age of 11, the same necessity would not exist as exists in other employments; and that there would be a tendency on the part of the masters to evade the

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operation of such clauses, by not taking any children into their works under the age of 13.

212. May not the Committee fairly consider that you would think it rather an advantage than otherwise if such clauses could be introduced without leading to any great inconvenience?—Certainly.

213. Does not your experience among the working classes of other trades lead you to think that educational clauses of that description are desirable?—Undoubtedly.

214. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are the systems in the bleaching and dyeing works of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire and the West Coast of Scotland generally very analogous to those in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Very, with this difference, that the temperature in the stoves is very high, and that a very large number of young persons and boys are employed in them.

Martis, 9° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Butt.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cobbett.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Turner.
Viscount Goderich.	Mr. Wyse.

ISAAC BUTT, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Warring*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Warring.*

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215. *Chairman.*] ARE you employed in bleaching and dyeing works?—I am not just at present, but I have been employed in them for 19 years.

216. How long have you ceased to be employed in them?—About two years: I have been on the operatives' committee; I appear here by the wish of the committee.

217. That is the committee for the short-time movement?—Yes.

218. Where were you employed during those 19 years?—I was employed for 14 years at Mr. Slater's.

219. Where is Mr. Slater's?—At Bolton; after that I went to work at Messrs. Hardcastle's.

220. Is that also in Bolton?—Yes; at Fir Wood Bleach-Works, Bolton.

221. And where else have you been employed?—At Mr. Haywood's a little, at Salford.

222. Where was your last place?—Mr. Cross, at Bolton.

223. How old are you now?—About 33.

224. You entered upon your employment about 11?—Yes.

225. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You say you belong to a committee; what committee is that?—I am on the Operative Bleachers' Committee.

226. Do you mean the committee established for the purpose of securing legislative interference with regard to the hours of labour in bleach-works?—Yes; the operative bleachers never had a committee before.

227. When was this committee established?—I think it was established in May 1853.

228. Was Richard Pearce your secretary?—He was not our first secretary, but we employed him about four months after the agitation commenced.

229. And from that time to this he has been your secretary?—Yes; he is our secretary at the present time.

230. Has Mr. Pearce communicated with the masters, and with different bodies of workmen, and with Members of Parliament, upon this subject, ever since he became secretary?—He has, ever since he commenced to be secretary.

231. And

231. And the committee have been anxious to get the aid of as many Members of Parliament as they could in securing the Bill to shorten the hours of labour?—Yes; during the first portion of the time that the committee met, they were anxious to come to some arrangement without legislative interference; they thought the masters would perhaps be disposed to make a rule to that effect.

232. And therefore they desired to do it without a law?—Therefore we desired to do it without a law at first.

233. What did you do in order to accomplish that end?—We sent a deputation round to the various bleaching masters to ascertain their opinions about it, but they did not come down with anything very satisfactory about it; and, a little while afterwards, we sent a petition to them. I have not one of those petitions with me, but I could obtain one in the course of a day or two. That petition stated that legislative interference, as we thought, ought to be applied to as a last resort; but that we wished to come to some arrangement without it.

234. Did not you say that this was in 1853?—In 1853.

235. You sent a deputation first to the different bleaching establishments in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Yes, we visited them all.

236. Your committee went no further than Lancashire and Cheshire?—Our committee went no further than Lancashire and Cheshire.

237. And then you drew up a petition or memorial to the masters?—Yes.

238. What was the result of that memorial?—The petition was answered only by five bleach masters; the others treated it with silent contempt.

239. The rest did not answer you?—The rest did not answer us.

240. What answer did these five masters give?—They said that they were in favour of legislative interference, provided it could be made agreeable to the whole of the masters.

241. Provided that the whole of the masters agreed to do the same, those five masters had no objection to the shortening of the hours of labour?—Just so.

242. Do you remember what were the names of those five masters?—Mr. Baley was one. There was one of his workmen up in London at the same time.

243. Was Mr. Marsden another?—Mr. Marsden was another. Mr. Seddon was another. Mr. Robert Haywood was another; and I do not remember whether Mr. Bridson or Mr. Morten was the fifth. It was one of the two, but I will not be certain which of the two it was.

244. How many bleaching establishments are there altogether in Lancashire and Cheshire?—I should say there would be about 18. I am not exactly sure of that.

245. Did you send your petition to them all?—We sent our petition to them all.

246. Did any of those who answered you state that they thought that nothing could be done without legislative interference?—Yes; all of them did.

247. All the five?—All the five.

248. Is the Committee to understand that they agreed to alter the hours of work if the rest of the trade would do so; but that they expressed their opinion that nothing would be effected but by legislative interference?—Yes; that was their opinion, as expressed in their letters.

249. Had they any objection to legislative interference?—No; they did not seem to have any by their letters. I had them all read in the committee-room several times.

250. That was the result of your memorial?—Yes.

251. Did they make any efforts at all to shorten the hours of labour?—No; the thing went on as badly as before, and then we sent out another circular. That circular was entirely treated with silent contempt.

252. It was not noticed?—It was not noticed at all.

253. The first petition was in 1853?—Yes.

254. When was this second petition sent out?—A few months after the other.

255. Was it in 1854?—Yes.

256. Have not you been a member of the operatives' committee since its establishment?—I have been a member of the committee from the first day it started. The secretary was not a member for a few months at first. I have not been employed in the bleaching-works for these last two years.

257. You say that the second memorial which was sent out by the same committee to the same masters as the first petition, was not noticed at all?—It was not.

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258. Do you remember whether it stated any facts different from those in the memorial which had been sent out first?—It stated the serious consequences that followed from working excessive time.

259. That was in 1854?—Yes; I think it was in 1854. Then we agreed to come at once to Parliament in the same way as the factory people had done.

260. Shortly after that, I gave notice of a motion for inquiry into the condition of the bleachers?—Yes.

261. After that, I think, you addressed, through your secretary, a memorial to the Members of Parliament, stating your case; was not that so?—Yes; we did.

262. Is this the document which you wrote [*a paper being shown to the Witness*]?—This was the document which was sent to various Members of Parliament.

263. Was that document sent out to Members of Parliament for the purpose of calling upon them to support my motion?—Yes.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

Bolton, 20 April 1854.

I am directed by the Bleachers, Scourers, Dyers, and Finishers' Short Time Committee to call your attention to a motion which has been given for the 2d May, by Mr. J. M. Cobbett, for a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire whether there are not causes in existence, sufficient to render it expedient to place bleaching, finishing and dyeing establishments under a similar Act to factories, as regards the labour of females and young persons.

I am also instructed respectfully to request that you will give your support to such motion, in order that Parliament may be satisfied that the grievances of which we complain are real, and such as can only be removed by legislative enactment, or that our allegations are unfounded and our claims invalid. For your information I beg to state, in brief, the following particulars: there are children employed in bleaching and dyeing establishments from the age of eight and upwards; indeed, as in the case of factories, numbers employed are of tender years, whose physical capacities entirely unfit them for excessive toil. There are also numbers of females employed of various ages, from eight upwards. The hours of labour in these establishments are not regulated by any fixed rule; they are governed by the amount of work required to be done in a given time; the consequence is, that it has become quite common to work for 14, 16, 18 and 20 hours per day for several days together, and not unfrequently for several nights and days without intermission, except for meals. To those acquainted with the nature of the work performed in these establishments, it will be easily apparent how such protracted hours of labour must necessarily be opposed to the physical well-being of females and young persons. In some departments the heat of the rooms is maintained at a very high temperature, and in others the continued exhalations from wet clothes produce very injurious effects upon the health. The results also in a moral and intellectual point of view are no less deplorable. So little time can be depended upon by young persons for educational purposes, that their mental culture is next to impossible; they have no opportunities of attending schools, and the various advantages presented by the several literary and educational institutions which happily abound, are to them a sealed book; the result is, that they grow up in ignorance, and pass through life incapable of understanding their duties as citizens, and deprived of those rational and elevating pursuits which possess charms only for the educated. Their religious feelings and sentiments also remain undeveloped, or if awakened at all, in but a very partial and unsatisfactory manner; for it is next to impossible that without the guidance of a cultivated mind the doctrines of Christianity can be comprehended, or the duties which it imposes recognised and appreciated.

When I mention the fact, that the system necessitates the leaving of work by females, in company with the opposite sex, at untimely hours of the night, you will not be at a loss to draw therefrom a correct inference. It is a position in which, I submit, such parties ought not to be placed, for it is most dangerous to the preservation of chastity, and the maintenance of moral rectitude. I could cite instances in which, overcome by the allurements of temptation, females have fallen from their purity, and become afterwards shunned and degraded. But if the Committee of Inquiry be appointed, this and other facts to which I have briefly alluded will be elicited in detail.

I therefore beg, in the name of our committee, that you will do us the favour to vote for Mr. Cobbett's motion. We do not wish Parliament to interfere in our case unless upon ample grounds of justification. It is not protection for adults that we seek, because we believe that it would be impolitic to attempt to regulate the relations between employers and their adult servants by Act of Parliament. We plead for those who are helpless; for those whose tender years and comparative fragile constitutions render them fit objects for the protective guardianship of legal enactment. Most of those now employed in bleaching establishments have been connected with them from early life; the effects of the system are ever present to their minds; they can see them in their stunted intellects, their inferior social position, and in the premature evidences of old age which are creeping over them; and they are wishful, in their love for their offspring, to secure for them a brighter and a better destiny—a destiny more befitting the people of this the first of nations."

I am, &c.

Committee Room, Bridge Hotel. *Richard Pearce*, Secretary.

264. It

264. It is stated in that document that the hours of work are very irregular in the bleaching establishments, that many very young persons are employed, and that they are employed frequently 14, 16, or even 20 hours a day; does it frequently happen that they are employed these long hours?—It very often happens.

265. Does that state of things continue for any length of time?—It depends upon the success of the masters; the working in the bleach-works is regulated very much by shifting orders; and it is by the amount of work that the masters regulate their hours.

266. Are there so few masters that they contest with one another for employment, and some get a great deal, and others get little?—Some get a great deal, and others do not get so much.

267. Can you state the number of hours that the people employed in these establishments work?—I may state the number of hours in the works that I have worked at, and my sister is working at the present time.

268. What works are those?—Mr. Slater's.

269. Where is Mr. Slater's establishment?—At Bolton.

270. What hours can you say that your sisters have worked, or any persons, in Mr. Slater's establishment?—I will state what it was at the time Mr. Slater took these works, 20 years since, or rather more; Mr. Slater took these works as a bleacher, and at first the people worked in two sets, night and day, and one set commenced in the day and another set commenced at night; but the women in the finishing part and the boys worked shifting 16 hours and then 8; they had to work in their turn.

271. Do you mean to say that the young persons would work 16 hours and go home for eight hours, and then come again and work 16 hours again?—Yes.

272. That was the state of things at first?—Yes; when Mr. Slater took the works, the finishing rooms and the drying department were not dependent upon machinery; afterwards they were put into one set, and then they commenced at six in the morning, and continued to nine, ten, and very often eleven at night; they did not exactly come at six in the morning; that was not always enforced.

273. Out of that time what had they for meals?—Half an hour at breakfast time, an hour at dinner, and half an hour at tea.

274. That was two hours precisely?—That was two hours; that continued for several years; Mr. Slater was very successful in business at first.

275. Has he gone on up to the present time?—Yes; he has withdrawn from business; but his sons carry it on.

276. How is the establishment going on now?—I wish to state this fact: after Mr. Slater had been there five or six years, he built a new finishing-room, and new mangling-places, and new drying-houses, and he gave over working in two sets night and day, and commenced working all his hands in the daytime; in consequence of laying down so much capital, and building so many places, and extending his works so much, he then commenced working from about six o'clock in the morning to about nine or ten at night, and occasionally all night.

277. When you worked the whole night was there not a different set of hands employed?—No, there was not; it was occasionally that it happened; it might be on Friday night we got "pushers."

278. What is the meaning of that term?—It is the word we use when work is brought in and they say that it must be done by a certain time.

279. Mr. *Turner.*] It is an urgent case, in which the work must be finished in a short time?—Yes.

280. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do you say that occasionally, when these pushers came, Mr. Slater not only worked the whole of the day, but the whole of the night also with the same people?—Yes.

281. Were young people of the age which you have described in that document worked in that manner throughout the night?—Yes, they were worked in that way.

282. Supposing that one of these pushers came, what time was allowed for meals?—They stopped the same for meals as at another time.

283. Would they stop at all in the night?—Yes; they generally stopped at Mr. Slater's at one o'clock at night, while the fireman got his engine fires cleaned out, which was done in about an hour and a half, and then the work went on. During that time the women and the others rested. That happened occasionally, not very often; perhaps once a fortnight.

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284. That was the state of matters after Mr. Slater had extended his machinery?—Yes.

285. Now, go from that time up to the present time; as far as you know, is it the same now?—He continued very successful for a long time, and continued working those times; and then, I should say, about four or five years back, he began to take less, and not being so busy, they had the work come in more in fits and starts, and sometimes they were very slack at Mr. Slater's.

286. When they are slack, what hours do they work?—It would be difficult to say what hours they work. But when they are slack, at a great many of these works, they go about 7 or 8 in the morning, and continue till about 6 or 7 at night.

287. When they are in full work, what hours do they work?—When they are in full work, they work on till 10 or 11.

288. From what time in the morning?—From 6 o'clock in the morning. That is the stated time.

289. Is that the usual time for beginning work?—That is the stated time.

290. Could you tell the Committee what proportion of females there would be in such an establishment as Mr. Slater's?—There would be nearly one-third females, I should think.

291. And out of that number, about how many very young persons would there be?—Something like one-third of those would be under 18.

292. *Chairman.*] Did that work, all day and all night, go on continuously?—They generally fell short a little about Christmas, or a little before Christmas.

293. Supposing them to work from six in the morning to one o'clock at night, would they on the next day have the same amount of work?—Yes, unless occasionally, when they had worked the cloth up.

294. For how many days continuously have you known that excessive work to go on?—There have been extreme cases in which the hands have been there two nights and three days.

295. First take the case of working all day and all night; have you ever known that continued for a second day and a second night?—Yes, and for a third.

296. Do you mean to say, that you have known persons to work uninterruptedly for three days and three nights?—Yes; resting a little at the works; they have not been allowed to go home, but have rested at the works, lying on the tables for a little while, or anywhere where they could get a place to lie down.

297. How long did they rest?—Perhaps an hour or an hour and a half; it might be longer sometimes.

298. Did they go on all night without leaving the works?—Yes.

299. Mr. *Turner.*] Were there children of eight years of age employed in this way?—I will not say that there were children of eight years of age, but there were children and young persons.

300. *Chairman.*] Were there young persons under 18?—Yes.

301. Did you ever know them go on for four days?—Yes; I have known them go on for four days without going home.

302. Mr. *Davison.*] How often did that occur in the course of a year?—There was no fixed rule for it; I never knew it go on very often.

303. Would it occur as often as three or four times in the course of a year?—It might, or it might not; I have known the work continue sometimes for three or four days and nights, and several times for a night and a day, or a night and two days.

304. Mr. *Kirk.*] Have you ever known consecutive employment for four days and four nights to occur twice in any one year?—I will not say that I have.

305. Mr. *Turner.*] On how many occasions have you known such a circumstance to occur?—I have known it several times.

306. Have you known it half a dozen times in your experience?—Yes.

307. That is to say, half a dozen times in 20 years?—Yes.

308. *Chairman.*] Without taking the extreme case of going on for four nights and four days, has it frequently occurred to you to have to work two days and two nights consecutively?—Not so frequently as it used to do; we used to do it very often.

309. Do you mean to say that it has not occurred often?—It has not occurred so very often as it used to do.

310. Mr. *Davison.*] How often, in the course of a year, would consecutive labour

labour for two days and two nights occur?—I have known it to occur three times.

311. Have you known it to occur four times?—I do not wish to exaggerate, and I will not say any more.

312. Mr. *Wise.*] On those special occasions to which you have alluded, have you heard the men make any complaints of their sufferings?—They were always complaining, but they came to nothing practical to remedy them.

313. Did they complain of the sufferings caused by this wonderful exertion?—Yes; there were many of them sick occasionally for a day or two; they mostly got time to rest, and got over it; they were not subject to any particular disease. Those who could not stand it had to go out and earn their living in other ways.

314. Do you mean to say that for four days and four nights the women remained with their clothes on, and only rested on the tables and benches for an hour or two?—Yes; that was the only rest they had.

315. Did your master see that going on?—The foreman or the master knew it.

316. Do you think that if the master had known it he would have allowed it?—He must have known it, because often the master set them so much work to do at 10 o'clock at night, as he knew must take all night; he has come from Manchester, bringing the orders himself to be done.

317. Do the masters generally reside near their works?—No.

318. Mr. *Kirk.*] Have these very long hours and these successive days and nights of work continued during the last year?—Yes; there are works where they worked for two nights and two days.

319. Do you know of your own knowledge that any of those engaged in this trade have worked for three or four nights in succession within the last year?—No.

320. Have you known it the year before last?—Yes.

321. Do you know that they worked three or four nights in succession in the year before last?—I will not say that they worked three or four nights in succession last year. I have not been working at the bleach-works these last two years, but I can state what has transpired where I have worked, and where my sisters are working at present.

322. Did not you state that your sisters are now working from 6 or 7 in the morning to 6 or 7 at night?—Not just at present.

323. Did not you state that at Mr. Slater's they had been working from 7 or 8 in the morning till 6 or 7 at night?—What I stated was, that Mr. Slater's works have not been subject to be busy continuously as they used to be formerly within these last three or four years; but my sisters are not working there now.

324. Where are your sisters working now?—One is working at Mr. Cross's now; she has not been there long; and the other has left the business altogether.

325. Are not these long hours that you have spoken of, to a great extent gone by?—They have not occurred so often lately as they did before; but I may just state that our secretary had a note from one of Mr. Slater's workpeople last week (I have the note, I think, in my pocket), stating the length of time which they had been working there; they worked all day on Friday, and on Friday night; and on Saturday till five o'clock in the evening.

326. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did they work continuously during that time?—Yes.

327. When was that?—Last Friday and Saturday.

328. Mr. *Packe.*] About how long is it since you had work for four days and four nights continuously?—It is better than two years since I know that it took place; I will not say that they were working all the time, but they did not go home for that time, and they did not go to bed.

329. Was that within the last two years, or within the last three years?—Within the last three years.

330. Is the Committee to understand, that within the last three years you know of the workpeople being up for four days and four nights successively without going to bed?—Yes.

331. Where was that?—At Mr. Robert Haywood's, at Crescent Mill.

332. Are the works of which you are speaking near Manchester?—Yes.

333. Mr. *Davison.*] Have you known that to have occurred at any other mill within the same period?—I cannot say that I have; I cannot refer to the circumstances of the case exactly.

334. Mr. *Turner.*] Will you tell the Committee when this occurred at Mr. Robert Haywood's?—It is three years since; I was then informed that they had not been home for four days and four nights at a time.

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335. Mr. *Davison.*] Do you speak of that from your own knowledge?—No; I was informed of it by the parties employed in doing it.

336. Was that the last time that you can give in which work has lasted for four days and four nights?—I cannot state the exact time; I have not worked at the bleach-works myself for the last two years, and I do not wish to state any thing beyond that.

337. Have you worked in the bleach-works for 17 years?—Yes.

338. Within those 17 years when did you see an occurrence of that kind take place?—If I had known that I was coming before this Committee I would have been prepared with a great many facts.

339. Will you state to the Committee about what period you can say that such a thing occurred?—During the earlier portions of my time at Mr. Slater's it occurred very often.

340. Has it happened within the last 10 years?—Yes, it has happened within 10 years.

341. How many times have you seen it within 10 years, and in whose mills?—I know that at Mr. Slater's they have worked for two or three days and nights; I have seen that myself.

342. Have you known it to occur more than three times within the last ten years?—Yes; I have worked myself in that way.

343. Mr. *Turner.*] How long ago was that?—Nine or ten years since.

344. Is that the last time that you know such a circumstance to have occurred within your own experience?—Yes; that is the last time that I have seen that enormous quantity of work done.

345. You cannot speak to any other instance, from personal knowledge, at any works?—I cannot speak to any case that has exactly come within my own knowledge.

346. Lord *John Manners.*] You stated, when you were examined by the Commissioner, the fact that you have just mentioned; have you yourself ever worked four days and nights consecutively?—I cannot say that I have; I do not think that I have.

347. *Chairman.*] Can you say that you have worked for 17 or 18 hours at a time?—Yes.

348. Have you done that yourself?—Yes, I have.

349. Will you tell the Committee for how many days that work for 17 or 18 hours a day would continue?—For six or eight months together.

350. Do I rightly understand you to say that for six or eight months together you worked every day for 16 or 18 hours?—Yes, every day.

351. Mr. *Cobbett.*] That is the work that you have done yourself?—That is the work that I have done myself, along with females and boys; they have not exactly been in the same kind of work with me, but along with me.

352. *Chairman.*] Have they worked as long hours as you?—Yes.

353. Have you known women work for 16 or 18 hours a day for eight months consecutively?—I have.

354. Mr. *Davison.*] When was that?—When I was at Mr. Slater's; I can refer to a later period than that, when I was at Mr. Cross's.

355. When was that?—That was two years since.

356. Lord *John Manners.*] You said that women worked these long hours; did children work these long hours also?—Yes.

357. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did the children lie upon the tables or benches at night when they worked these long hours?—There was no time to lie down in these hours.

358. When they worked throughout the night, did the children fare the same as the young persons?—Yes; the children stopped all night; I have seen them in the packing-rooms.

359. You have been asked a good many questions about the particular times, and the number of times, in which you yourself have known the working to go on throughout the night; can you pledge yourself to any particular occasion that you can mention in any one year when that was done?—I cannot just now.

360. Do you feel certain that you remember the working for three or four nights and days consecutively to have occurred several times?—Yes, I do.

361. In fact you have been a workman and have endured it yourself?—Yes, I have.

362. Have you seen the women and the children lie down during an hour or an

an hour and a half in the night while the engineman was cleaning out his engine to take rest?—Yes.

363. Can you also say that at times you have worked two days and two nights?—Yes.

364. Has that occurred more frequently than consecutive work for four days and four nights?—Yes, certainly.

365. Has it often occurred?—Not often.

366. What is the last time that you remember two or three days and nights together of working?—About six or seven years since.

367. Have these very long hours, and the days and nights of consecutive work, constantly been a subject of complaint amongst the working people?—Always.

368. Have they often tried to induce the masters to lessen the hours, or to get legislative interference to prevent them?—No, I never heard much about legislative interference before the passing of the Factory Act.

369. Was not the Ten Hours Act passed in 1847?—Yes.

370. Was there any desire expressed to get the bleaching works included in the operation of the Factory Act?—The workpeople often talked about it when they were having their meals together.

371. It was the subject of conversation among them?—Yes.

372. Have not you a good many factory people in Bolton whose work is regulated by the Factory Act?—Yes, a good many.

373. Did you consider them to be much better off than yourselves on account of their having their hours of labour restricted?—Yes.

374. And do you wish to be put upon the same footing with them?—Exactly upon the same footing.

375. Have they greater opportunities of attending libraries and getting instruction than you have?—Yes, decidedly.

376. Do you find any difference in that respect between you and the factory people?—Yes, the factory people have free access to all the institutions, the public libraries, the theatres and so on; they can go anywhere they choose.

377. Do they subscribe to the libraries and institutions of that kind?—Yes, a great number of them attend the night lectures at mechanics' institutions, and so on, and get books from the library.

378. Do the bleachers do that?—No.

379. Has there been any attempt made to get the bleachers to subscribe to a library?—They have got up a kind of schools in connexion with their works.

380. And have they succeeded, or, after having been set on foot, have they failed?—I have known them to fail, and I have never known them carried on long.

381. Is not it a fact that you subscribe for a considerable number of different times, and that these institutions have invariably failed because you could not attend on account of the long hours of work?—Yes; we subscribed 2 *s.* 6 *d.* apiece at Mr. Slater's, once, towards building a kind of Athenæum, and the committee managing that building could not agree as to the mode in which it was to be conducted; and Mr. Slater handed over the money to the Mechanics' Institution at Bolton, and gave his workpeople tickets. It was 17 *l.* altogether.

382. Lord *John Manners.*] Were the workpeople able to use these tickets?—No; I had a ticket, but I was working every night all that time, and I gave it to a coachmaker at Bolton.

383. *Chairman.*] Do you know of your own knowledge, within the last five years, of any bleaching-works going on on Sunday?—Yes.

384. Where have you seen work going on on Sunday?—At Mr. Cross's.

385. Lord *John Manners.*] Were your sisters working there?—Yes.

386. *Chairman.*] How recently have you known that?—It is certainly two years since I knew it to happen.

387. Have you known it within the last two years?—Yes.

388. Do you know the great lever works at Bolton?—Yes.

389. Have you ever seen those works going on on Sunday?—I have never been down there on Sunday, and I do not know. But I saw a man going down there on Saturday night, and he said that he had to work on Sunday morning.

390. Can you state that you met a man going down to work at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, and that he told you what he was going to do?—Yes; he said that he was going to work at that time.

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391. Did he tell you how long he was going to work?—He said that it would be 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning before he finished.

392. Up to what time was it common to work on Sundays?—It used to be very common some time since; but it has not been so common these last eight or or nine years.

393. Lord *John Manners.*] Since your sisters have been at Mr. Cross's, has there been work there on Sunday?—No; not that I am aware of.

394. Mr. *Turner.*] Have not you been employed by the Operative Bleachers' Association for the last two years?—No.

395. What have you been doing?—I have been employed in looking after this Bill, and in doing a little at Bolton; and I have been employed at a foundry for six months; but I have never left the committee. I have had to get several jobs occasionally. I have been in a foundry, and I have been on the railway.

396. May I inquire what wages you receive?—When I am engaged with the Bill, the operatives pay me; but when I am working they don't pay me.

397. Have not you a regular salary in connexion with the operatives?—No.

398. Do you get your living as a foundry-man?—That is not my business. I consider bleaching my business; but I have worked about six months since I was up here last at a foundry.

399. Do you find the foundry occupation more healthy than bleaching?—No.

400. Why did you leave the occupation to which you were brought up?—It is my occupation to come up here at the request of the operatives.

401. Has that been the means of taking you out of your occupation?—I cannot say that; I have not been able to get a situation since that time at the bleach-works.

402. Have you attempted it?—Yes, I have, at nearly all the bleach-works round about Bolton.

403. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Has that been the case with others of the operatives besides yourself who have come up here?—Yes.

404. Have they all been dismissed?—Every one of them that has come up here, and they have never been able to get situations again; one was employed for a week or two at Mr. Bridson's; he was out of work, and he is now gone to America.

405. What is his name?—Richard Parpington; the committee gave him 10 *l.*, and he went and fitted himself up with a calender, and so on, and he is managing business.

406. Mr. *Wise.*] Have the employers ever assigned any reason for not giving you work?—They only told me that I was not wanted any more.

407. Mr. *Turner.*] What hours do you work at the foundry?—From 6 in the morning to 6 at night, and 1 o'clock on Saturday, with meal times, of course.

408. May I ask you what wages you get?—I have 14 *s.* a week, but some of them have 25 *s.*, 26 *s.* or 30 *s.*

409. Lord *John Manners.*] You only work ten hours a day there?—We only work ten hours a day.

410. Mr. *Turner.*] Do not most of the facts that you have stated apply to Mr. Slater's works only?—No, it was the same at Mr. Cross's while I was there; but they have been slack at Mr. Cross's these last twelve months in one department, and the other department is very busy.

411. Have not they been rather slack of work at Mr. Slater's during the last two years?—They have.

412. What is the reason of their putting up so much new machinery if they are slack?—I am not prepared to say what is the reason that Mr. Slater has become slack, but I have heard that it is on account of his manager leaving him and going to another place, and that reduces a portion of their work.

413. Is it the fact that they have extended their machinery?—Yes, and several men have been put out of employment in consequence of it. May I be allowed to state what Mr. Slater stated to me on Saturday, that the Bill would do him no harm; that it would do him good. He did not request me to state that here, and he did not say that I must not; he said that he would not come up here to oppose the Bill.

414. Although you have not been working yourself, you must, from your connexion with the committee, be intimate with the operations of work at the present time; can you state whether the hours and the oppressive labour in the works are as severe as they were at the time of which you are speaking, nine years ago?—They are almost exactly the same.

415. Has there been a large increase of bleach-works of late years?—No, I cannot say that there have been any new works erected, but the old ones have been much improved by machinery in some parts.

416. Have not the products that require bleaching been much increased of late years?—I do not pretend to say that.

417. Do not you know that there has been an immense increase in the cotton manufacture?—There have been a great many new cotton factories built since the passing of the Factory Act; there are seven in erection now at Bolton; but as for the quantity of cloth that comes from the new works now, as compared with the old works, I am not prepared to say.

418. If there has been no increase in the bleach-works, but a great increase in the production of cloth, will not there be much more work at the different bleaching-works?—Ever since I have known what bleaching was, some works have been short, while others were making this length of time. For instance, when Mr. Slater was making this length of time, there were the Burnden works not doing anything.

419. Will not there always be those differences depending on the management and skill of the different masters?—Yes; but the custom does not always stop at one place. It is as customary for a merchant or manufacturer to change his bleacher as it is for us to change our shoemaker or tailor. I have known several manufacturers move from one place to another; that is brought out, I think, by the evidence of Mr. Slagg, of Manchester. If one bleacher cannot do the work they will be obliged to send to another.

420. Mr. *Kirk.*] Were you in Ireland in the year 1853?—Yes, I was.

421. Were you at Keady?—I was.

422. Did you take with you to Ireland a number of placards of different coloured papers containing your letter?—I did.

423. Did you distribute them there among the workpeople?—Yes.

424. You called them together?—Yes; the reason why we did this, was because two or three men had sent letters to us about this movement, and had requested to have the Bill extended to them; and a man had come over from Ireland to our committee.

425. Where did he come from?—From the North; from Banbridge.

426. What was his name?—Mr. Kean; he came into our committee-room; we did not know him.

427. Did you make a speech to the people at Keady?—I merely said we were applying to Parliament for a Ten-hours Bill, and we had heard by letters that had come over from them that the Irish were desirous that the law should be extended to them; that we had got a system to allow workmen to utter their complaints; and that we had drawn up a letter upon the subject, and that various Members of Parliament, who had some knowledge of the Irish bleachers in Ireland, recommended strongly that Ireland should be in the Bill; but that in the first year Ireland was not in the Bill when it came into Parliament; and that it was made an objection to the Bill that Ireland was not in it.

428. Who objected to that?—Some of the Scotch bleach-masters.

429. The Scotch bleach-masters objected to the Bill because Ireland was not in it?—Yes.

430. What did you say to the people at the meeting which you held?—We came simply to ask their opinion as to whether they wished that they should be in the Bill or not; and they expressed a strong opinion at the meeting that they wished to be in the Bill.

431. Did not you tell them in your speech that they would get more wages for less labour?—No; but I did say this, that the factory people were afraid at the time of the passing of the Factory Act that the operatives were going to lose a day's wages a week. I said that that had proved not to be the case, and that the operatives were getting more now than they were getting then; and I believed that that would be the case with the bleaching business; and I am of the same opinion yet.

432. Would not a plain answer to my question have been, that you led the people to believe that they would get more wages for less labour?—I told them what I have now said; but it is not a question of wages with us. We do not mind losing the extra wages if we can get a limit put to the hours of labour.

433. Did you ascertain how many women were employed in the bleach-works at Keady?—There were very few.

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434. Did you ascertain how many females and young persons were employed in those works?—I believe it is not customary in Ireland for them to commence working so soon as they do in England.

435. Do you know at what age they begin to work in Ireland?—I am told that very few begin to work before they are 13 years of age.

436. Is it not the fact that there are no girls and no boys under 13 years of age in that establishment?—Yes; but at one of the works there were nearly 300 women working in one room.

437. To confine yourself to Keady; there are a number of bleach-mills upon the same river, are there not?—Yes; I saw several.

438. Did you make any inquiry as to the position of the workpeople there, or did you simply come to agitate them?—We did not come to agitate them.

439. Did you make any inquiries as to the nature of their employment, and the extent of it?—Yes; I believe they are not subject to working the length of time in Ireland that they work in England.

440. What length of time do they work?—They told us of one place where the men work nine days a week.

441. At Keady how long did they work?—I can tell you what one man said to me; he said that one occasion he commenced at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and he worked till 12 again, some portions of them, nearly all, except those employed upon one or two sets of goods.

442. At what time did the persons who work upon the field begin in the morning?—The persons working in the field told us that they were working something about factory hours, and that they did not mind about them; but they thought they were necessary in the beetling.

443. Did you find, moreover, whether there were two set of hands employed?—There are in your works; but that is not a model for all Ireland.

444. Do you know anything of the nature of the employment of beetling engines?—Not in Ireland.

445. Do you know that the greater proportion of the workpeople who attend he beetling engines are adults?—I do not know the state of things in Ireland.

446. Do you know that it is perfectly practicable to work the beetling engines without employing anything but adult labour?—I can only say that I believe they employ only adult labour in the beetling establishments in most of the bleaching-works in England, and I should think it is the same in Ireland.

447. Did you learn when you were there that the parents used moral constraint with the masters, and obliged them to take their sons to labour with them?—No, I did not hear anything of that kind.

448. Was there nobody at all that told you that he would a great deal rather have a son working along with him than not?—No, there was not; I never made any inquiries about that.

449. Has not the evidence which you have given hitherto been entirely with regard to the cotton bleach-works?—Yes.

450. Have you had any experience of the linen bleach-works?—None whatever.

451. Are you aware, as far as your knowledge goes, that linen cannot be bleached in the same manner as cotton?—Yes, I am perfectly aware of that, because we have had odd pieces of linen, two or three pieces at a time, and I know how they have bleached it; we have bleached it on the grass.

452. Must not linen be bleached on the grass?—Yes.

453. In fact, the operation of carrying the linen out to the field, and laying it out upon the grass, and lifting it from the field and spreading it, form the greater part of the labour of a linen bleach-field; is not that so?—Yes; there was one man who told me that they could perfectly dispense with boys in the field if they thought fit.

454. Were there any boys in the linen bleach-fields?—Yes, I saw some.

455. Were not they employed in picking up pins, and things of that sort?—Yes.

456. Does not it follow that as the principal proportion of the employment in a linen bleach-field is out of doors, persons engaged in them could only work seven or eight hours a day in winter?—I should think it would be so.

457. They could only begin in the morning at about seven; they must give up about half-past four?—I should think so.

458. And therefore, if a Bill was passed compelling them to work from six to

six, it could not be obeyed?—Not as far as adults are concerned; they might dispense with women and young persons; we are not interfering with the fields at all, nor with adult labour; we are not interfering with adult labour in the fields, or anywhere else; the young persons might leave off in the fields, or anywhere else.

459. Would that concern the parties that got this Bill up?—Yes.

460. The words of the clause are these: "The word bleaching-work, wherever it occurs in this Act, shall be taken to mean any inclosure, room, house, building, shed or other premises, which could be, or is used for the purposes of carrying on the trade or business of bleaching or dyeing." Does not that include the field works?—I think the Bill says that in cases of emergency that they shall be allowed to work upon out-door processes.

461. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You did not draw the Bill?—No, I think the Earl of Shaftesbury drew the Bill.

462. Mr. *Baxter.*] When you said that you did not intend to interfere with the bleach-fields at all, you meant that you did not mean to interfere with adult labour in the fields?—Yes; I did not mean to interfere with adult labour in the fields. I just wish to state, that I do not see what the fields have to do with the subject, because as I understand the Honourable Member to say, there will be no women or boys employed, and we are not interfering with adult labour; and it appears to me that it is almost all adult labour in the fields.

463. When you were there did not you make inquiries as to the length of time that the people worked?—I believe that from what I heard there, the people working in the fields would not object to working long hours in the summer time. When we were coming back from there one day, I saw that they were all cleared away when we passed there, and it was not much past 7 o'clock at night.

464. Did you make any inquiries as to the length of time that my workpeople worked for me?—No, we did not.

465. Mr. *Baxter.*] You said that the operatives employed in these bleach-fields, in the north of Ireland, were not caring much about the Bill; does that remark also apply to the linen bleach-fields on the coast of Scotland?—I suppose so; I did not think much about the Bill.

466. Does the same remark apply to the south-east coast of Scotland, where the work is very similar to the work in Ireland?—I never have been there, and I know nothing about it; when the Scotch case comes on I dare say they will be able to state their case.

467. Was there any feeling among the operatives employed in the linen bleach-fields on the east coast of Scotland in favour of such a Bill, until they had been communicated with by parties from the manufacturing districts of England?—I do not know much about the east coast of Scotland; I can speak as to the west, but I do not know anything about the east.

468. Do not you know that the processes used in those works are analogous to those used in Ireland?—I do not know anything at all about them.

469. Mr. *Turner.*] Is not there a considerable quantity of machinery in course of introduction into the bleach-works generally?—Yes; I think they commenced at the time that this agitation did.

470. Will not they, in your opinion, tend very much to divide the hours of labour; will not it facilitate the manner in which the manufacturer accomplishes his work?—My experience of this sort of machinery is this: machinery was introduced at Messrs. Eden & Throut's five years since, and they dismissed half their men; but it enabled them to do the bleaching very cheap and very well, as far as the bleaching is concerned; but as to the finishing, they just went on at the same length of time; I have had a sister working there, and she stated that she had not been from work before 10 or 11 o'clock at night perhaps more than a dozen times in six or eight months.

471. Do not you think that the introduction of machinery does tend to equalise the hours of labour:—Not in the slightest degree in the finishing department; it has only tended to put the hands out of work; there are a great number of workpeople out of work through it; they still continue the length of time, but it throws the hands out of employment.

472. Did not you state that you were working in a foundry now?—Yes.

473. Have you given up the bleaching business?—No, I have not given it up, if I can get a situation.

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474. For how many months in the year do you work in the foundry?—I have worked there for something about six months.

475. Do you really work at the foundry half your time now?—I have no situation at all now.

476. Do I rightly understand you to say that you do not receive anything in the way of wages except the pay which you receive from your committee?—I have not done anything since a fortnight before Christmas; I came out of work a fortnight before Christmas; I was taken on at a push when I went back to London, and they kept me on for six months; the manager told me the master had ordered him to send me away, and he said that he had kept me on longer than the master was willing. There was no work going on in three rooms when I went away.

477. The fact of your having given up bleaching and working does not seem to have deteriorated your physical appearance?—I have not had any work since a fortnight before Christmas, except that I worked at the railway for a fortnight, and I have not got a penny during that time.

478. Except what you get from the delegates' club?—They pay me when I come up here; I cannot live in London, and pay 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a night for my bed, for nothing.

479. *Chairman.*] Is the Committee to understand that while you are here upon the business of the association, the operatives pay your expenses in London?—Yes; they have wished to employ me to do work for them, but I have refused to be employed in that way; I have given it up.

480. Mr. *Kirk.*] I see that you gave evidence in four distinct cases before Mr. Tremenheere; you first gave direct testimony, which is contained at page 2, and then you gave further testimony, which is contained at pages 9, 10 and 44; will you state to the Committee why you gave evidence four times?—Mr. Tremenheere expressed to the Committee a wish to see some of us after he had taken the evidence of the masters, in order that he might read it over to us to see that it was correct, and give us the privilege of correcting anything that was wrong in it, just as he had read our evidence to them. Those that were working were afraid that they might be injured if they had too much to do with Mr. Tremenheere, and I was the one who volunteered to go to hear the evidence of the masters, and to correct it.

481. Are we to understand that when you used the words "I have seen the evidence of the masters," you meant to say that you had heard it?—Yes; I believe that Mr. Tremenheere made a mistake there; I think I said that I had heard it.

482. You simply heard it?—Yes; Mr. Tremenheere read it over to me.

483. How did it happen that your answers were given with such circumstances of particularity as they are at page 44 of the report?—I just answered the questions that Mr. Tremenheere asked me, and I referred him to the various documents in existence, the memorial to Lord Palmerston, and to the masters, and so forth. That is the form in which he has put my evidence, but he asked me questions.

484. How did you happen to recollect all these circumstances, so as to be able to make observations upon the evidence of one and the other, without having the documents before you?—A man who has worked in the bleach-works all his life-time is able to answer any questions that any man may ask him about it; and if he has been connected with the committee, he can answer the questions as to how it has been conducted; that is all I did.

485. There are in your evidence observations about Mr. Blurr's evidence and Mr. Crass's evidence, and the evidence at page 35, and so forth; how were you able to make those observations merely from hearing the evidence read?—I had my pencil and paper in my hand when Mr. Tremenheere was reading it over, and I made a note of the things that I wished to make a remark upon. I feel very much interested in this movement, from what I have seen of the consequences of long hours during the time I have been in the business; and I am very anxious for the passing of the Bill, and that was the reason that I was as acute as I could possibly be in it, because I thought that much depended upon our managing it well.

486. Is it still your opinion, as stated in your evidence, that you could make a person a good worker in the bleaching in a very short time?—That is Mr. Slater's opinion; it is not my opinion at all; I stated what was told to me by one of the masters in the bleaching business.

487. Is it the fact that Mr. Tremenheere did not give you any of the evidence which he had taken to read or to examine; but you simply took notes from what he

he read?—That was all; but I stopped him while he read, and asked him to read portions of it over again sometimes. I was a day with him with the secretary in Manchester. He had given the masters a longer time than that to consider our evidence, and to make their remarks upon it; but he stated that the masters made no remarks, beyond charging one or two of the men with exaggeration, and things of that sort; he did the same with the masters as with us. He sent the masters our evidence to read, and requested them to examine it, and see if it was correct; and if it was not correct, to write to him about it.

488. Were you, or any of your committee, with Mr. Tremenheere before he commenced his investigation, or during the time that he made it?—Neither I nor any of the operatives at Bolton had ever seen Mr. Tremenheere before he commenced this investigation.

489. Did any of the committee point out to him the bleach-works that he was to go to?—He requested that we would furnish him with a list of the bleach-works in the neighbourhood, and our secretary did do so.

490. Did you furnish him with a list of the whole of the bleach-works, or only of certain ones?—I believe we passed over one or two by mistake. I think we omitted Mr. Slater's.

491. Was not Mr. Slater's the establishment in which there had been very excessive work?—Yes; it was missed by an oversight.

492. Did your committee request Mr. Tremenheere not to examine any of the workpeople in the Irish bleach-fields?—No.

493. Did nothing of the kind take place?—Not that I know of.

494. *Chairman.*] Do you know of any such request being made?—No.

495. Mr. *Kirk.*] Did not Mr. Tremenheere simply examine the workpeople of those places which the Bolton Operatives' Committee pointed out to him?—We just gave him a list of the bleaching-houses in the neighbourhood.

496. Lord *John Manners.*] Did you say anything to him about Ireland, one way or the other?—No.

497. *Chairman.*] Did he ask you for a list of the bleaching-works near Bolton?—Yes; and he asked who was the secretary of the Short Time Association at Manchester, connected with the finishing and bleaching-works there, and we just gave him the secretary's address and a list of the bleaching-works.

498. In the evidence which you gave before Mr. Tremenheere, you said this: "One of the great reasons of the long hours in the finishing departments is, that the bleaching machinery has been improved faster than the finishing, so that as much cloth can be bleached in 10 hours as it would take 16 to finish." Is that correct?—Yes, it is correct.

499. Has there been any improvement in the finishing department since you gave that evidence, which is now some years ago?—Not in the times of work; they do not work shorter hours.

500. You say, "But many bleachers have already improved their finishing machinery, and those that have not might get through the finishing in 10 hours, if they would take on more hands, or improve their machinery." Is it your opinion that if there was the same improvement in the finishing machinery that has been made in the bleaching machinery the masters could meet the requisitions of the Ten Hours Bill, without any inconvenience?—I think they could do it now, with a little management, just by the employment of an additional female or two; and the Committee will see that Mr. Morris, the foreman of Mr. Ainsworth, is of the same opinion. Mr. Bridson, of Bolton, I think, is almost of the same opinion. The Committee will see by the evidence that he thinks that by laying out a little money in improvements, they could do the work.

501. Do I rightly understand you to say, that by the recent improvements in the bleaching machinery, what you call a push order, which would formerly have taken a week, could now be done in three or four days?—During these last six or seven years they can bleach a shipping order for any amount of cloth quite as well in four or five days as they could have done it in seven or eight. If the Committee choose, I will tell them the reason of it.

502. Is there any doubt that if similar attention were turned to the improvement of the finishing machinery it would have a similar result?—It would have a similar result if they were to employ a few more women in the finishing department; then they could keep straight with the bleachers; at present the state of things is, that they are able to work 10 hours in the bleaching department, and to give the other departments 17 hours' work; I think that by a little arrangement

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of the finishing department it might be done in 10 hours equally with the bleaching department.

503. Lord *John Manners.*] As to the occasion when you went over to Ireland, do I rightly understand you to say that an application came from Ireland to you in the first instance?—Yes; a man came over to us, and when he got back he stated that the operatives in Ireland were anxious for a Bill equally with the English operatives; and then we told him that if that were the case they must petition Parliament and send petitions over; and several petitions were sent over from various works by this man to our committee, and were presented to Parliament.

504. Your committee did not first communicate with the Irish operatives, but the Irish operatives addressed you in the first instance?—They wrote to us in the first instance.

505. *Chairman.*] Is it not the fact that the Bill which was first introduced, and which passed the House of Lords, did not extend to Ireland?—Yes.

506. Was it after that that these Irish operatives came over to you?—Yes.

507. Mr. *Baxter.*] Was any such application made from the linen bleachworks of Scotland, either by deputy or by letter?—No.

508. Could any have been made without your being aware of it?—No, it could not; because I have been aware of all that has taken place in the committee.

509. *Chairman.*] Do you remember when Lord Shaftesbury introduced the Bill in the House of Lords?—Yes.

510. Then it came into the House of Commons?—Yes.

511. Was it subsequently to that that you had communication with Ireland?—Yes.

512. Did they come and complain of being omitted in the Bill?—They wished to be in the Bill.

513. Mr. *Kirk.*] Who is the treasurer of the short-time committee fund?—The secretary and treasurer are both one; the landlord of the house where our committee met was the treasurer; but when he left the house we entrusted the secretary with the funds.

514. Who is it that disburses the money that is collected by your committee?—Mr. Pearce, the secretary.

515. You spoke a little time back of a man named Kean; was he employed to get up petitions from Ireland to the House of Commons?—I believe our committee paid him a little sum of money for the trouble that he had been put to, on account of his stating that the Irish had so little that they could not afford to pay him, and we thought that it would be right to help him in that way.

516. Is it true that you paid him 1 *s.* a name for every name he got to the petition?—It is decidedly false.

517. Was it so reported?—I never heard it.

518. Did you pay him a certain sum of money for getting up the petition?—No.

519. Was he employed to get signatures to petitions by the Bolton Short Time Committee?—We paid him his expenses; but he stated that he was getting up a petition at the wish of the Irish operatives.

520. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Is Mr. Kean an Irishman, or an Englishman?—He is an Irish bleacher.

521. Where does he work?—Somewhere about Banbridge.

522. Did he come to you, or did you go to him?—We never saw him until he came into the committee-room.

523. Where did he come to you?—He came into our committee-room at Bolton.

524. Mr. *Kirk.*] How much did you actually pay Richard Kean?—I cannot say exactly; I could tell by reference to the reports.

525. Is there any person who can tell us exactly what he was paid, and for what services he received that money?—He received the money for his trouble in getting up the petition; I think there never was a petition that came to the Houses of Parliament in which some parties were not paid for attending to it. In the case of the Corn Law Petitions a man at Bolton had 5 *s.* a day for standing in the street with them.

526. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Are you referring to the Anti-Corn Law League Petition?—Yes; he was paid for standing at a table with it.

527. *Chairman.*]

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527. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to say that there cannot be a petition to the House of Commons without some persons taking trouble about it?—There cannot be a petition to the House of Commons without some persons taking trouble about it. But our petitions did not cost us a halfpenny, except the paper and the printing, because our people came to sign them.

528. Did not Mr. Kean represent himself as having taken a great deal of trouble in forwarding the short-time movement in Ireland?—Yes, that was it.

529. Did he further represent that the Irish operatives were not able to pay him?—Yes.

530. And therefore you paid him something on account of his expenses?—Yes, we did.

531. Was anything paid to him for getting up petitions to Parliament?—No, nothing at all.

532. Mr. *Davison.*] Did you know that that was the practice with any other petitions?—No; in the case of the Corn Law Petition they employed a party to look after it, and stand at the table with it. Mr. Kean was a poor working man, and could not lose his time.

533. Lord *Naas.*] How was your committee first brought into communication with this man?—We did not know anything at all about him till he came into the committee-room.

534. Did he offer his services to you?—He said that the Irish were wishing for a Bill, but that they had not the means to look after it.

535. Did he say that he would undertake to get up a petition if you employed him?—Yes, if we paid his expenses.

536. Did you pay him anything beyond his expenses?—No; simply his expenses.

537. About what sum was paid to him?—Something like 5*l.* or 6*l.*, I dare say.

538. Viscount *Goderich.*] Could not your treasurer tell the Committee exactly what you paid him?—Yes.

John Marshall Robinson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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539. *Chairman.*] YOU are a practising Surgeon, I believe, in Bolton?—Yes, I am.

540. How long have you been practising in Bolton?—For 34 years.

541. Have you had any opportunity of becoming acquainted with the families of the persons employed in bleaching-works in Bolton?—Yes; I have attended a great number of them, but I do not know that I can mention anything special in connexion with them.

542. Have you had an opportunity of forming an opinion as to whether the hours of work at present pursued in the bleaching-works are injurious or not?—The work itself is very healthy, but long-protracted labour is injurious.

543. From your professional experience in attending the families of persons who are employed in the bleaching-works, do you think that their health suffers from the hours of work at present used?—I cannot specify cases; but I think I have met with some cases of acute disease brought on by exposure and long-continued labour; but I have known nothing of the working of the bleach-works. I do not know anything of the hours of work of my own knowledge. I may say that I have heard parents complain that their children have been very much fatigued and broken down by them; but I do not know it of my own knowledge.

544. Have you frequently heard those complaints?—I am not prepared to speak positively about it; but I think that, taking a series of years, I may say that I have heard them frequently. Taking my practice of 34 years, I may say frequently; but, at the present time, I do not suppose I have had any complaints at all within the last three or four years.

545. Do you remember a petition being presented to the House of Commons some time since from Bolton in favour of the Short Time Bill?—Yes.

546. Did you sign it?—Yes, I did.

547. It is "the petition of the undersigned clergymen and members of the medical profession of the borough of Bolton, in the county of Lancaster," and it alleges that "your petitioners have long known with regret that it is customary in the several bleaching, finishing and dyeing establishments in the United Kingdom, for females and young persons to labour for 14, 16, 18 and 20 hours a day, and

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and frequently for days and nights consecutively, without intermission, except for meals;" is that your experience now?—I believe that such has been the case formerly; I suppose it was so 20 years ago; but I believe also that improvements have taken place in machinery which facilitate the works, so that great improvements have taken place in the works.

548. Do you know or believe that at present these practices are persevered in?—I cannot speak of my own knowledge; when I signed the petition I went upon the reports of the parents who happened to call upon me professionally, and therefore I believed it.

549. Do you believe that it has continued, or that it has ceased?—I believe that the hours of labour are injurious to young people; those hours of labour would be injurious to any person.

550. Do you believe that they are now customary?—I think they are not so common as they used to be before the improvements in machinery to which I have referred.

551. Do you think they exist at all?—I do not know; I believe that occasionally, when there are, as a witness has said, some bleach-works where there are what they call "pushes," that is to say, large orders, which have to be completed in a short space of time, they cannot do it without working a part, if not all the night, and the works are not carried on without the employment of people of both sexes, and of different ages. I have no doubt upon my own mind of that, because I have occasionally passed through the works; but, of course, I do not speak any further.

552. I believe you have been a medical inspector of factories?—Yes.

553. Do you remember the state of the factories and the factory children before the Factory Act passed?—Yes.

554. What is your opinion as to the result of the Factory Act?—I think it exceedingly beneficial; the rising generation of the factory operatives will be the most educated of any class that we have, because, before coming to 13, they must go to a school where the master or the mistress is approved of by the inspectors; they cannot work full time till they are 13.

555. As far as you can form an opinion, do you consider that the extension of a similar provision to the bleach-works would be beneficial?—That is my view of the case. I confine myself entirely to children from 8 to 13; and I think that the educational clause, if it were to be carried out in combination with a provision for their not working too long, would be beneficial; we have a great improvement in the physical condition of the factory operatives; there are no bow-kneed or distorted figures as there used to be.

556. Do you think there has been an improvement latterly in the hours of work at the bleach-works?—Yes.

557. Before that improvement took place was there any perceptible difference between the persons employed in the bleaching-works and the factory operatives?—The bleachers were far more healthy than the factory operatives.

558. Do you think that now the factory operatives look the better of the two?—I think they are the more intelligent.

559. Has that change been produced under the influence of the Factory Act?—I am doubtful whether I can make a physical comparison, because the bleachers, most of them, live in the country, and have benefit of inhaling the pure air.

560. What length of hours do you think that a young person under 13 could be able to work without injury to her health?—I do not think they ought to work more than 10 hours, deducting from that two hours for having their meals; I think that 10 hours is quite enough for young persons from 8 to 13.

561. Lord *John Manners*.] Do you apply the same remark to women; how long do you think that women, with a due regard to their circumstances, can work?—After girls have passed the age of 18 they can endure more physical labour, but they are not, many of them, quite perfectly developed until they are 17 or 18 years of age, and these long hours of work interfere with the anatomy and physiology of the frame.

562. You were examined before Mr. Tremenheere, and you stated, in answer to a question from him, that you had had frequent opportunities of being acquainted with the workers in bleach-works and their families. How did you get your opportunities?—As medical attendant.

563. Have you come across both children and young females employed in the bleach-works?—Yes.

564. Have

564. Have you ever noticed that they appeared to be unhealthy in any way?—No, they are not mostly unhealthy; I think that there is a tendency, from over fatigue and sudden exposure to cold in the night, to fever, typhus fever, and sometimes inflammation of the lungs.

565. Have you ever known the complaint which is called "sore feet"?—Perhaps there is a little swelling about the ankles occasionally, from standing so very long as they sometimes do; but when they work night and day for two or three nights consecutively, they have the opportunity, when waiting for their turn, of resting. If I understand the bleaching correctly, the cloth goes through several processes, each of these processes being done by one set of hands; and when one portion is bleached, or has passed through the drying-room, or anywhere else, they can wait until their process comes on again; but instances have been reported to me of swollen feet, which have been attributed by the parents to over-work.

566. Mr. *Packe*.] Is there anything unhealthy in the employment of bleach-works?—I think it is more wholesome work than any other occupation.

567. Mr. *Davison*.] If women and young people were kept working for four or five days together, would it not be enough to give them swollen feet?—Yes, but that is an extraordinary occurrence. In some parts of the bleaching process the temperature is obliged to be exceedingly high, and that is injurious to those who are working in it.

568. Lord *John Manners*.] Is it not the fact, that where the temperature is so high, the people are not employed those occasional long hours which have been mentioned?—I fancy that it is amongst the finishers, as they are called, that the long hours prevail, and they of course require a warm atmosphere; but my observation applied to the stoving, where the temperature must be very high.

569. Mr. *Davison*.] Are you prepared to say, of your own knowledge, that the children and young persons employed in the bleaching-works are, as a class, unhealthy?—No, the occupation itself is not unhealthy; the only objection I have is, to the length of time that children between eight and 13 are employed.

570. Mr. *Kirk*.] When parents complained to you about the long hours which their children were obliged to work, did not it occur to you to ask them why they sent their children at such a tender age to work?—They are obliged to send them; they must do something for their own livelihood; a great many parents are kept by their children working in the bleach-works and in the factories; it is a very common thing for the children and large families to get to work, and for the father and mother to keep at home; they are quite aristocratical among workpeople; they have a large income.

571. Do you mean to say, that the parents send their children to work, in order that they themselves may not labour?—They would not send their children to work in order that they themselves may not labour, but it is a very difficult matter, I suppose, for a weaver, who will earn 18*s*. or 20*s*. a week, to keep five or six children; of course when they get able to work they are anxious for them to earn something; at first they earn very little; I have known them earn as little as 1*s*. 6*d*. a week, but they quickly get up to 2*s*. 6*d*., 8*s*., 10*s*., and so on.

572. On the other side of the Channel we do not, generally, take in any children, either male or female, until they are, at least, 13 years old; is that difference in consequence of the superior industry of the English, or in consequence of the cupidity of the parents?—Every one must put their own construction upon it; I cannot answer that question; it may arise from both causes.

573. Would it not be an improvement if no parent could send his child to any employment until he was 13 years of age?—If you speak of the child, I should say that it would be a very great improvement. But it is better to have half a loaf than none at all; and there are a great many of them that are dependent, in a measure, on the labour of their children for a livelihood.

574. Do not you, as a medical man, believe that it would be the most important benefit that the working classes could obtain, if they were not to be required to labour till they were 13 years of age?—My medical opinion, independently of other matters, is that if they did not labour at all until after they were 13, they would be a great deal better off, and a stronger generation would rise up. But that is simply a medical opinion, isolated from the rest of the case.

575. Considering also the amount of information that they would necessarily derive now that cheap schools are spread over the whole country, would it not be a most important improvement in the education of the workmen, if they were sent to school at that time?—If I confine my answer to that one question,

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of what is best for the children, I should decidedly say that it is better for them not to work at all till they are 13, and to have play, but to go to school. But if it is competent for me to go a little further, I should say that I think, as regards children in that part of the country, that if they are not at work they are doing something which is worse, because the parent will not send them to school.

576. Do you mean to give it in evidence before this Committee that English parents are so indifferent to the mental cultivation of their children that they will not send them to school?—I mean to say that I know, as Medical Inspector of Factories, that we have great difficulty in getting parents to send their children to school.

577. That is in a case where there is a school for the children, and they are obliged to send them to school?—Yes; they cannot help their going to school, but they play truant. They must go to school while they work, or else they cannot go to work at all; but we frequently find that they are allowed to play truant. It is decidedly proved that their parents will not do it without a necessity, and we find that there are many who do not go to the factory that are never sent to school by their parents. I do not know a single instance where children who come into the factories at eight years of age have been in the habit of going to school, except to the infant schools which are spreading amongst us, and are becoming very efficient and very useful. But that is a recent thing.

578. Is the Committee to understand that children which are sent to the factories, or to the bleach-works, or to any other employment at eight or nine years of age, have actually not been sent by their parents to school?—It is so in some cases.

579. Are those cases numerous?—I should say that they are numerous; hundreds of children are in that case.

580. Do you refer to children in the neighbourhood of Bolton?—Yes.

581. Did you say that the people having sent their children to work at this tender age, have complained to you that they were overworked?—I cannot speak from my knowledge as to how young they are received in the bleach-works, but they are not received in the factories till they are eight years of age.

582. Do not you think that they should not be received till they are 13?—As a medical opinion I should say so; but I know the impossibility of carrying out what is proper for the rising generation.

583. Would you have any hesitation in saying that they ought not, under any circumstances, to be employed before the age of 11?—I should say that the same amount of occupation in the bleach-works would not be more onerous, or more confining, or more injurious than in the factories, and they seem to take no harm there; provided they can only work half a day at the bleach-works, as they do at the factories, I should recommend their being allowed to work at the same age.

584. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do not they work six hours a day at the factories?—Yes.

585. Mr. *Kirk.*] Are you aware, from your residence in Bolton, that the employment at the factories is of a far more continuous nature than the employment at the bleach-works?—Yes, but the work in the factories is very different from what it used to be; improvement of the machinery and the improvement in the construction of the buildings, and the improved system of ventilation, have made it much more healthy and pleasant than it used to be, so that you must not suppose that they are continually kept on the stretch; they have time to play, and time to look through the windows, and so forth.

586. Do you conceive that in the employment of a young person, whether male or female, in the cotton spinning, or the cotton carding, or the cotton rolling rooms, there is an insensible inhalation of certain particles, or certain substances floating in the atmosphere, which is injurious to health?—Decidedly so, but I am speaking comparatively; you cannot have the rooms so perfectly ventilated as to do away with that altogether.

587. Is that the case in bleaching-works to the same extent?—I do not suppose that there is so much of it; but as regards the bleach-works, I cannot speak so much from experience as I can with regard to the factories; I have not been into them so often.

588. Have you had much experience of, or acquaintance with the dye-works?—No.

589. Are there many dye-works in the neighbourhood of Bolton?—I think there are three or four.

590. Are

590. Are they of a very extensive character?—I do not know their extent; I should think that Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Hardcastle had each of them extensive works, but I do not know to what extent.

591. Have you had any experience, medically, of the children employed in print-works?—No; nothing further than that I have been occasionally called in to them as patients; it does not strike my memory just now that that was at all in connexion with their employment at the print-works. I have had all classes of patients, and I do not remember anything in particular in connexion with the print-works or the dye-works.

592. Are they more or less healthy than others employed in the factories?—I cannot give a direct answer upon that point.

593. Does it occur to you, judging from your practice, that they are less healthy?—No; it is proverbial that the old bleachers were the strongest men in Lancashire.

594. Do you recollect anything particular about the health of the people employed in the print-works?—I cannot remember, because I cannot isolate them from the rest.

595. Mr. *Turner*.] Will you allow me to ask you whether you know any labouring occupation or any professional employment that is not occasionally subject to hours beyond the average?—I believe that is so; the factories are the only exception.

596. Do you think that the principle of working certain hours and then stopping the employment, could be universally extended to all professions and occupations?—That is a question that I cannot answer; I can only say, as a medical man, that such a thing would be beneficial to the operatives; but whether such an interference would be for the interest of the masters it is not for me to say.

597. Would it be beneficial to you as a professional man to say that you should only work certain hours?—I could not do it.

598. Would it not be injurious to your patients?—It would be impossible for me to select my hours of work; I should like it very much if I could.

599. The object of this inquiry is to ascertain whether masters are not overworking the young persons and children employed in their works; do you think that the whole of the blame attaches to the masters, or that part of the blame attaches to the parents of the children and young persons who send them to work?—I do not feel disposed to blame either of those parties; I think that great blame attaches, if I am correctly informed (not being a bleacher myself I can only form my opinion from hearsay), to the merchants who do not send their orders until some vessel is going to sail, and then the work must be completed by a certain day, in order to do which the hands must be employed day and night. Then the question is, whether legislation would improve that, and whether the merchants, understanding that, would send out their orders regularly; in such a case the operatives might cease work regularly on Saturday night, and rest on Sunday; I do not see why proper hours, of a certain length, should not be adopted in bleaching. I am not giving an opinion upon it, but I am merely telling the Committee the reason why I think it might be done. I only speak in this case professionally as to the physical condition of the children; but if I am asked to give an opinion upon the general question, I should say that I think that the work might be carried on, but I could not go any further. The same objections were made before the Factory Act was passed.

600. Do you think you have seen considerable improvement in the factory hands since the Factory Act was passed?—Decidedly.

601. It has brought them up to the standard of the bleaching operatives, which were very much below?—Yes.

602. Now do you think they are equally healthy with the bleaching operatives?—Yes, and what I consider a matter of higher estimation, I think that they will be the best educated class that we have in a few years; their physical condition is decidedly improved.

603. Do you think that they are now physically better than they were formerly?—Yes.

604. You could not wish for any great improvement?—No.

605. And that has only just come up to the standard of the bleaching operatives; are they superior, even now, to the bleaching population?—I should say physically that they are not superior, because if you have a boy or girl breaking

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down in the bleach-works, there may be some constitutional taint in the child, and it is natural for the parent to attribute it to overwork; if there is a tendency to disease, overwork would be sure to evidence it.

606. May not you infer that if the factory operatives have not been brought up beyond the standard of the bleaching population by the limitation of their labour, and if you would not suggest any further limitation in their hours of labour, the bleaching population do not require legislative interference?—I decidedly say that 10 or 12 hours is quite enough for children; adults may work longer, of course, but 10 or 12 hours' work in every 24 hours is, in my estimation, quite as much as any child in any work should do; I am not speaking especially of bleaching; the same would apply to any other work.

607. What do you mean by the word "children"?—Those between 8 and 13.

608. Mr. *Davison.*] Have you known any instances in your locality of works being carried on on a Sunday?—I cannot speak of my own knowledge to that.

609. Have you heard of it?—I have heard of it.

610. Do you believe it?—I have heard it, and I have heard it assigned as a reason, that certain pieces of cloth were in such a stage of the process that if they were left untouched they would be rotted; I do not know what it is.

611. Do you confine that remark to any one mill, or is it a general remark?—No; it is a general impression I have from conversation.

612. Lord *John Manners.*] You have been asked if the condition of the people employed in bleach-works was not only quite equal, but superior to the condition of the people employed in the factory; did I rightly understand you to say that it was so?—Yes, physically.

613. Did your answer apply to their intellectual and moral state as well as to their physical?—No; merely to their physical condition.

614. In the year 1855 you signed a petition to Parliament, praying that legislative interference might be applied to the labours of young people employed in dye and bleach-works; are you still of opinion that it would be desirable?—Yes, I am.

615. Mr. *Cobbett.*] In your evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, your words are these: "I am decidedly of opinion that a limitation of the hours of labour is very much to be desired for the females and boys employed in them," (that is the bleach-works) "inasmuch as many injurious consequences, both physical and moral, arise to both from their long hours of work;" is that your opinion still?—I am of that opinion now.

616. Did not you sign a petition to Parliament in 1854?—I think I signed such a petition.

617. Did not that petition pray the House to pass some Act to limit the hours of labour of females and young persons who are working at bleach-works?—Yes.

618. You state in that petition that you "have long known, with regret, that it is customary in the several bleaching, finishing, and dyeing establishments in the United Kingdom, for females and young persons to labour for 14, 16, 18 and 20 hours a day, and frequently for days and nights consecutively without intermission, except for meals." Do you remember reading that petition before you signed it?—Yes, I do; and so far I will explain, that I did not speak personally from having gone into the works, but from the evidence of the parties who drew up the petition.

619. Do you know it from public rumour?—I know it from public rumour, that is all.

620. Do not you live in the neighbourhood of Bolton?—I do.

621. Is not your business principally in Bolton and the neighbourhood?—Yes.

622. I believe this matter has been constantly the subject of conversation with all classes that you have met with?—It is an understood thing.

623. Do you not, therefore, without having actually yourself pursued the inquiry so far as to be able to state, from your own knowledge, that the working people have worked for consecutive nights and days, receive the assertion as a notorious fact?—Yes, I have heard so, and I believe it to be the case.

624. Your practice being principally in Bolton, among all those people, has your own practice led you to suppose that what you have heard as a general rumour was correct?—It has led me to suppose it to be correct.

625. Mr. *Davison.*] Does not the difference between your evidence to-day, and that which you stated in the memorial, consist in this, that in the memorial you stated

stated that you knew what you did not know?—I do not know what you refer to; I have been giving a direct answer to questions put to me as to my belief at the present day.

626. You state now, that from the reports you have heard, and from the belief which you entertain, you are of opinion that your statement is correct; but do not you, in your memorial, state your knowledge of the facts?—I make a distinction between my belief and my own knowledge.

627. Are not the words of your memorial these, that you "have long known with regret"?—Yes, but then that is derived from a general impression.

628. *Chairman.*] You know, probably, that there is such a place as America?—I only know it from report.

629. Do you feel any hesitation in saying that you know it?—I know it; it is an expression of belief.

630. Mr. *Davison.*] If a man stated to you that when he was going to the House of Commons he saw a person knocked down, you would not say that you knew it?—No, that is a different thing.

631. *Chairman.*] When you signed that petition were you not certain that what it stated was true?—Yes.

632. Do you think so now?—I think so now.

633. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did not you state just now that the Factory Acts had so far improved the factory people as to have brought them up to the condition of the bleachers?—Yes.

634. Did I rightly understand you to say that the bleachers were originally a very healthy class of people?—Yes.

635. Was not that when grass bleaching was carried on?—Yes.

636. Did not the process of grass bleaching consist in spreading the goods out on the grass?—It did.

637. Has not the process been discontinued for the last 15 or 20 years?—I should say that there has been very little of that done for the last quarter of a century.

638. Are you a native of Bolton?—No, I am a Yorkshireman.

639. How long have you lived at Bolton?—Forty-one years; I have practised on my own account 34.

640. Do you know what the mode of bleaching was formerly?—Yes, to a certain extent.

641. Are you sure that grass bleaching was not carried on up to within 20 years?—I could not speak of that.

642. Did the people whom you have spoken of as being so robust and healthy work in the open air?—Yes, and I believe under cover; they were a robust healthy set, and were always characterised as strong men; but if they were ill at all it was generally a very acute disease, and they sank very rapidly; they required strong treatment, and if they did not send for medical assistance at once, very frequently it was too late. It was generally disease of the lungs or inflammation.

643. Mr. *Wise.*] Do they suffer from bronchitis?—Yes, what is called pneumonia and inflammation of a portion of the lungs; and I believe they sank very rapidly.

644. *Chairman.*] Did that arise from any peculiarity in the bleaching employment?—It was generally from exposure to a current of cold air, from the way in which they were employed at the time in open sheds, in the midst of steam and wet, with large wheels revolving in the water and splashing over them, and on passing from that into the open air, with bare arms and necks, if there was snow upon the ground it might injure them; they were very strong, but if they were struck with disease, they fell off very quickly.

645. Mr. *Packe.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that dyeing establishments are different from bleaching-works?—I think that all dyers are also bleachers; but the dyeing works are distinct from the others.

646. You have said that bleaching is a healthy employment, does that apply also to dyeing?—I think it does to a certain extent.

647. Is the dyeing equally healthy with the bleaching?—I do not know that any special disease has come under my care in connexion with that work.

648. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it not your opinion that the limitation of the work should be confined to 12 hours?—Yes, for children.

649. Whether the workpeople are exposed to currents of air or to damp is quite

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independent of the limitation of work, and must continue so long as the process is carried on in a particular manner; is not that so?—Yes; it must be decided by the master.

650. The work must be continued according to a particular process, without reference to the duration of the hours of work?—Yes.

651. Mr. *Turner.*] In the course of your profession, have you had considerable experience of sick clubs, and their operation?—Yes.

652. Are the recipients of relief in sick clubs more numerous in the bleaching population than in the factory population?—I should say that there were a great many more factory operatives than bleach workers; *pro rata*, I should say that they are about equal.

653. What are the number of accidents in mills as compared in bleach-works?—I do not suppose that there are quite so many in the bleach-works, but when they do meet with an accident, it is often a fatal one; I have only known very few; if they should get between the cylinders there is very little safety for them, but the accidents in mills, considering the number of people employed, are exceedingly few now, and 99 out of 100 arise entirely out of their own carelessness, but I do not know anything about accidents in bleach-works officially.

654. *Chairman.*] You used this expression, that, if you were correctly informed, the necessity for these long hours was produced commonly by "pushers"; does your information extend up to the present time?—Yes.

655. Does that practice prevail still when those cases arise?—My impression is that a very great improvement has taken place in bleaching machinery, facilitating and expediting the process in every possible way, and calling for much less manual labour for the operatives; but still, if my impression is correct, they work as long.

656. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do you think that we should have a stronger race of people if they were not allowed to work till they were 13 years of age?—I say that in a physical point of view, and in a moral point of view, if the cultivation of the mind and the strengthening of the body were to go on quietly up to that time, it would be better; but I think I guarded myself in the first instance by saying, that I believe in the manufacturing districts you cannot do it.

657. Did I rightly understand you to say, that if the children abstained from work altogether till they were 13 years of age, it would produce for us a strong race of people?—Yes, if you can secure their going to school.

658. Does bodily strength require much school?—No; but we must recollect that the children are living in cellars and alleys, and so forth, and if you can get them out into the country you would raise a strong race of men.

659. *Chairman.*] Considering the mode in which the children live, do you think it would be better for them to be employed in some way than to be left at home?—A great deal.

660. Would it not be preferable, in point of physical strength, if they can get fresh air in the country?—That is one point that I wish to mention; the poor Irish who are admitted in the factory, who are obliged to live in cellars and dirty alleys, are obliged to become sweet and clean. And I should suppose that if they are sent to a school where the masters and mistresses are better educated, and every week they had to send up a return of the children who went to school, the school, generally speaking, being an airy structure, it is certainly better than being at home.

661. Do you think it would be better for the children themselves, that there should be a law passed prohibiting them from going to work before they were 13?—No; *cæteris paribus*, I think it is better to let them go to work part of the time.

662. Do you think that the manufacturing population would be in a condition to support their children if they were prohibited from making any use of their labour?—I do not know what they would do; I am certain they are not.

663. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You have stated just now, that there is a great difficulty in getting the children to go to school at all. Do the parents object to their going?—Yes.

664. Are not the children that work half time in a factory obliged to go to school by law?—Yes.

665. Did not you say that, as a consequence of that, you thought that the rising generation of the factory working people would be the best educated class that you have in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

666. What do you mean when you say that the parents object to sending their children to school?—Many of them, at that age, have not received the benefits of education

education, and they do not appreciate it; they are idle and slovenly, and perhaps intemperate, and they care nothing at all but for getting money through their children for the indulgence of their own passions; and that is the reason that the rising generation will be an improved race. They will be better educated. That does not apply to the grown-up people.

667. Do you speak of the factory class now, when you say that they are idle, intemperate, and slovenly?—I was not speaking of the factory class generally, but I believe that among all classes there are such people.

668. Is that your observation in the neighbourhood?—That is my observation in the neighbourhood. You asked me the reason why they do not send their children to school, and I say that that is the reason.

669. Does that remark apply to parents who are working in factories?—Yes.

670. Is not it the fact, that the parents have greater opportunities of making money by their children in the factories, than parents who live away from the factories, and that it is more the habit of their parents to make money by their children?—I can hardly turn my memory to any part of the neighbourhood of Bolton where there are not factories or other works of some description, foundries, paper works, and so on; they are distributed along the stream in every population round about the town, and I cannot find you a distinct class unoccupied anywhere.

671. You think it is in order that they may get money by their children that they send them so young to school?—I think, as regards the factory operatives, they cannot do it, and as regards bleachers I do not know.

672. Did I rightly understand you to say, that you attach the greatest value to the education clauses in the Factory Bill?—I do.

673. And upon this principle, that you think it of great importance to induce a parent to have his child educated, making it a condition of his being allowed to make anything of his earnings?—Yes.

674. And you give us 13 years of age as the termination of childhood: take the case of a girl between 13 and 18; would you think it desirable to put a restriction upon her hours of labour?—No, I fancy that it will be quite sufficient to carry it as far as the Factory Act goes; and that only limits them to between 8 and 13. We do not admit them till they are eight, and we do not allow them to work full time till they are 13; the medical visitor must be convinced that they are 13 before he allows them to work full time; after that time they work full hours.

675. In point of fact do they work in factories more than 10 hours, although the legislative restriction only extends to persons below 13?—No, I think not. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to state, that the Factory Act applies to girls above 16 and 18, and in fact women altogether, but not to the motive power. It does not restrict the motive power, so that every man above 18 may work all night if he thinks proper; the law does not interfere with him. But we place all children under 13 under the officers, and all women and young persons.

676. Would not you consider it necessary to have a restriction on the hours of labour up to 18?—Yes; in the Factory Act that restriction applies to all females, and to both sexes from 8 to 13.

677. Would not you consider the same restriction necessary in the bleaching-works?—Yes; I do.

678. Mr. *Kirk*.] What do you mean by the same restriction?—The restriction as regards females. You cannot interfere with adult males at all.

679. With regard to males from 13 years of age to 18, would you conceive it indispensably requisite that there should be a restriction as to the length of time they should work?—They should not work more than 12 hours until they are of that age, and then they are competent to decide for themselves.

680. Lord *John Manners*.] Are you acquainted with the provisions of the Bills which from time to time have been brought into the House of Commons to regulate the hours of labour in the bleach-works?—No; I am assuming that they are assimilated to the Factory Acts.

681. What would be your opinion of a provision prohibiting all children under the age of 11 from working in bleaching and dyeing works?—I think, if you could combine, along with the going to school, a provision for them as to working short hours, beginning work at eight years of age would not be injurious at all. I am rather of opinion that you should allow their going to work at eight years of age, because the child would gain education by the educational clauses.

682. Would you prefer that the children hereafter to be employed in bleach-

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works should be subjected to what are called the education clauses of the Factory Act?—Yes; I would allow no work without education going on simultaneously, day by day.

683. Mr. *Turner*.] Would you compel the parents to provide education for the children?—The Act, I think, would provide that, as it has been done in the Factory Acts. I fancy that there would be clauses pointing out how it should be done. In all these opinions which I have given, I have not at all taken into account the facility of conducting the business. I do not know whether it can be done in that way or not, but I do not see why it should not.

684. Lord *John Manners*.] Supposing, in consequence of the nature of the processes carried on in the bleaching-works, it is thought to be inconvenient to establish the education clauses of the Factory Act, will it then be, in your opinion, advisable to prohibit entirely the working of children under the age of 11?—Decidedly, and unless you could have a clause for the education of children from 8 to 13, I should advise not employing them at all till that age; but I should prefer the one with education to the other without.

685. *Chairman*.] I find in your evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, this statement; "The adults are generally a healthy class of men," (speaking of the bleacher), "but it is notorious that none but persons of strong constitutions can long stand those hours; since the introduction of machinery in the bleaching process, which has been going on for some years, the bleachers are no longer so clearly distinguished from the other classes as they used to be in point of strength and vigour; they are now more under cover." Do you still think that the bleachers are not now as vigorous and as healthy as they used to be?—I do not think that the adult males are quite so vigorous as they used to be; they were so prominently distinguished from all other adults, whether they were packers or not.

686. That was generally the case?—Yes.

687. Has not that been attributed to their working in the cold weather?—Yes.

688. Since the introduction of machinery and of chemical processes, and the working under cover, do you think that very great distinction has ceased?—Yes.

689. They are not so robust and healthy as they used to be?—No, I do not think they are; by the term "comparative rate," I mean that whereas the standard of health among healthy operatives has been raised very much, the comparative standard in the appearance of the bleachers has been, I think, lowered; therefore they are not so distinguished as they used to be.

690. Is it the fact, that since machinery and chemical processes in bleaching have been substituted for open-air work, the bleachers are not so healthy and vigorous as they used to be?—No, they are not; they do not appear so.

Thomas Blackledge Garstang, Esq., M. D., called in; and Examined.

T. B. Garstang, Esq., M. D.

691. *Chairman*.] YOU have been in practice for some time at Bolton?—Yes, 15 or 16 years.

692. Have you during that time been in the habit of attending families of persons employed in the bleaching-works?—Frequently.

693. Have you had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the hours of work for which young people are employed in bleaching-works?—I have.

694. Can you state to the Committee your impressions as to what those hours of work are?—I think they are decidedly injurious.

695. How long are they?—I have known young women frequently employed 16 or 18 hours a day; of course my experience among the adult male population is not to be mentioned, or else much more for extreme cases than that might be alluded to.

696. What are the hours of work amongst the adult male population?—Frequently 20 and 22 hours a day for a week together.

697. As to young women, how long have you known them to be worked?—Seventeen or eighteen hours a day frequently.

698. How long would that last consecutively?—For a week or 10 days together.

699. How often would that occur?—It occurs at frequent intervals, sometimes after two or three weeks, sometimes at longer intervals, according to the push of work.

700. Have

700. Have you known it occur at intervals of a week?—Frequently.

701. I think you mentioned the case to Mr. Tremenheere of two young men whom you had attended, who had been at the works for 16 hours a day for 5 or 6 months consecutively?—Yes, I did.

702. Do you remember that instance now particularly?—I do.

703. Have you known any other instances of the same kind?—Yes; I accidentally came in contact with a man on Sunday; his age is 36, and he is a packer in one of the works in Bolton. He worked from half-past five o'clock on Monday morning till 10 minutes past three on Tuesday morning; he went again at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, and worked till 12 on Wednesday morning; he went there at half-past five, and worked until half-past four on the Thursday morning; he went again at 11 on Thursday morning, and worked till five on Friday morning.

704. Mr. *Davison.*] Was this his own statement to you?—This was his own statement to me.

705. Mr. *Kirk.*] Was that in a bleaching-work?—That was in a bleaching-work.

706. In what department?—He is a packer.

707. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee the name of that man, or have you any objection?—I have an objection to it, because it might have a prejudicial influence upon the poor man; I beg to decline to do so.

708. Have you any objection to mention the name of his employer?—Yes, I have.

709. Do you mean to say that there is, on the part of the working people, any reluctance to afford information upon matters of that kind?—A very great reluctance, and they are very suspicious if any person makes an inquiry, lest their information should come to the proprietor of the works, and thereby they might be dismissed.

710. Do you think that that apprehension prevails among the workers employed in the bleach-works?—Very extensively.

711. Do you think, as far as you can form an opinion, that that apprehension is well founded?—I do.

712. Do you still object to give to the Committee the name of the employer?—I do not know that there is any serious objection to giving the name of the employer; it is Mr. Bridson.

713. Mr. *Turner.*] Does not a man of that description, who can work so many hours continuously, receive very large wages?—I know nothing about wages.

714. Does he work for ordinary wages?—I believe that they work very unwillingly during those hours, and it is only as a matter of necessity that they do so.

715. Being an adult, was he not master of his own conduct?—This man that I speak of was 26 years old, but he was a mere shadow of a man.

716. Would a mere shadow of a man be able to sustain that continued work day after day?—I think that that continuous labour had no doubt had a very prejudicial effect upon his health, and no doubt it was with great difficulty that he sustained the long hours of labour that he was subject to.

717. Could not that man, if he left the manufacturer who employed him, get work elsewhere?—It might be a matter of some difficulty.

718. *Chairman.*] Do you think that any persons employed in bleaching-works could refuse to work those long hours?—They could, but it must be at the penalty of dismissal.

719. Do you think that a person so dismissed could obtain employment elsewhere without submitting again to those long hours?—I think that he could with great difficulty obtain employment.

720. Do you think that the working people generally, as far as you know their opinions, are anxious for legislation upon that subject?—Extremely so.

721. Do you know anything of the opinions of the masters with reference to legislation?—I have had no conversation with the masters upon the subject.

722. Have you known many instances of young women under 18 years of age working those long hours?—I have.

723. Would you say that it was a common practice?—Yes.

724. Is it also common with boys of the same age?—Yes, but I think that the greater proportion are girls, stitchers and so forth.

725. May I ask you whether you know that it is their habit to keep young women all night in the bleaching-works?—I believe it is.

726. Have you known that frequently to occur?—Yes, I have.

 727. At

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727. At what hour do they ordinarily return home?—I think the hours are very various, it just depends upon the time at which their labour closes.

728. Do they often return home at midnight?—Occasionally at one, two and three o'clock in the morning.

729. Have you an opportunity of informing the Committee whether, in a moral point of view, evil results follow from these late hours?—I recollect two instances in which women have had illegitimate children; that might be attributable to that cause.

730. Do you think that the hours to which you have deposed as being common, are prejudicial to health?—Decidedly so.

731. Mr. *Kirk.*] In what way are they prejudicial?—More especially to the adult male population, as they are much more extensively employed in the works. I think the hours of labour for the adult male population are very extreme indeed in many cases. I was told only the other night, of a man who never was at home for three weeks; he was at a bleaching establishment in the neighbourhood of Bolton for three weeks, and he never was at home; but I believe that that is a solitary or a rare instance.

732. Did you see this man whom you heard of, on Sunday, professionally?—I accidentally came in contact with him in attending another patient; he was in a very infirm state of health, and I took the trouble to examine him, knowing the errand on which I was coming. When I made this enquiry, he was at the time in an extremely infirm state of health, and I attribute it entirely to excessive labour and exhaustion.

733. Mr. *Wise.*] When they go to work for this long period, do they take their meals with them?—Yes, they take their meals with them, or have them sent to them.

734. Do you think that the exhaustion to which they are subject has a tendency to increase the use of stimulants among the operatives?—I should think so; I do not think that as a class they are a dissipated or a drunken class.

735. Has that extreme exhaustion a tendency to create a necessity for the use of stimulants?—I think not; in the works it is not permitted; and I think, as a class they are an exceedingly sober class; I have not observed any cases of necessity.

736. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do not you concur with Mr. Robinson in thinking that bleaching is generally an exceedingly healthy occupation?—I believe it is an exceedingly healthy occupation.

737. Does not your own experience, as regards complaints, differ from that of Mr. Robinson, who stated that there had been no complaints within the last few years?—I think Mr. Robinson intended his observations to apply simply to the labour of women and children.

738. You have stated that you knew cases of women being overworked lately?—I have known them work 17 and 18 hours a day.

739. Does that apply to the last few years?—Yes, within the last twelve months.

740. Does not your experience differ from his in that respect?—I have seen cases of acute disease that I attributed to exposure to inclement weather during the winter nights, when they are coming home frequently at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning; delicate young women are often out at that time; I have frequently been called in to cases where I have attributed the cause of that disease to exposure to inclement weather and long hours.

741. Mr. *Wise.*] Are not some of the persons very young?—Yes.

742. Exposure from coming out of a very hot room into a cold atmosphere will have the effect of causing inflammation of the lungs; is that a common disease among the bleachers?—It is not at all an uncommon affliction; but the adult males are chiefly employed in the finishing-rooms, where the temperature rises from 90 to 100 and 110 degrees.

743. Mr. *Baxter.*] You have said that the health of the adult males is most affected because they work the longest; are you an advocate for legislative interference with the hours of work of the adult males?—I am, most decidedly.

744. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Then you would restrict the labour of adult males as well as that of every other person?—I think it is quite necessary, and although the arrangement in the factories does not affect the adult male, he indirectly enjoys the advantage of it.

745. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you believe that the same result would take place with the bleach-works, that if the labour of women and children were limited in the bleach-

bleach-works, thereby the labour of the men would be limited?—I think that there would be a great chance of that, because they are much more numerous than the young women and children.

746. Mr. *Packe.*] Are you of opinion that the work in the dyeing establishments is equally healthy with that in the bleaching?—I think it is quite; the dye-works in the neighbourhood of Bolton are, I think, confined to simple colours.

747. Are there any noxious ingredients in dyeing that make it more unhealthy than the bleaching?—I think not.

748. Mr. *Turner.*] Do you wish, not only that the Legislature should interfere with the labour of women and young persons, but that it should regulate the hours of the labour of the adult men?—I think the adult men will be the greatest gainers by that.

749. Do you think it right of the Legislature to compel them to adopt certain hours?—I believe that the men wish it, and that it would be advisable.

750. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would it not be equally advisable to regulate the labour of the adults in fields?—I think it would be advisable that no man should work more than 10 or 12 hours a day.

751. Would it not be equally necessary to regulate the labour of females in domestic service, the maids-of-all work, for instance?—I think it is most advisable that no individual should be subject to working more than 10, 11, or 12 hours a day.

752. Is it your opinion that, no matter what the exigencies of the occasion may be, no persons should be employed more than 10 or 12 hours a day, and those within stated limits?—No arduous labour (such labour as individuals are subject to in bleaching and dyeing-works, and in cotton factories) should be continued for more than 10 or 12 hours. I believe they are standing upon their feet during the whole of the time.

753. As to domestic service, for instance, do you think that where a female servant gets up at 7 in the morning she should not work later than 7 at night?—I think it would be most advisable.

754. How would you manage about the persons who are employed in beer shops and gin palaces; would you limit them in the same manner?—Yes; 12 hours' labour is abundantly sufficient, where the person is subject to anything like arduous labour, and is standing upon his feet during the whole of that period.

755. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you consider agricultural labour arduous labour?—Yes, I do.

756. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is not a person employed in fields, in hedging or ditching, or making drains, employed in arduous labour?—I think that 12 hours a day is amply sufficient for them, and quite as much as they ought to be subject to.

757. Viscount *Goderich.*] Do you mean to say that you think it is desirable that persons should not work more than 12 hours, or do you think they ought to be prevented by law?—I do not mean to interfere with hedgers and ditchers, and ploughmen. I think it very unnecessary we should have legislative interference in that behalf.

758. Mr. *Kirk.*] Why do you think so?—Because they are more independent. I think they can better suit themselves; and if their employers choose to dismiss them they can more readily gain employment elsewhere.

759. As to the person you mention as having sustained a great amount of labour, would there be any difficulty in such a man obtaining employment in Manchester, or in any large town?—I think there would be a difficulty in obtaining employment in the bleaching-works. I think that the hands are abundant, and that employment in them is rather difficult to obtain in many cases, especially for some descriptions of men.

760. Are you aware of the hours at which the packers begin and leave off work in Manchester and London?—No; I know nothing about the working times of the packers in Manchester and London.

761. Do you intend to convey to this Committee the idea that a packer in Bolton, no matter how hardly he is worked, no matter what bondage his master subjects him to, cannot get employment out of Bolton?—I do not know.

762. Did not you state something of that sort before?—I stated that there was a considerable number of bleaching hands who would find difficulty in getting employment after they had been thrown out of a good place.

763. Are you aware of the third clause proposed in the Bill which has been proposed on behalf of the bleachers?—I was not aware of it.

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764. Do you know anything of the employment of the packers? — I have simply a vague idea that his work is to pack the goods after they are bleached and finished, and to make them into bales.

765. Is not that an employment that must be very common wherever goods are made into bales?—Yes.

766. Did not you state that you were unwilling to give that man's name, lest he should not get employment?—Yes.

767. And thence the Committee would naturally infer that other bleachers who wanted packers would not employ this man, unless he would work the same number of hours?—He did not wish to be dismissed from his present master, for whom he has worked for some years, and he made it a request that I would not divulge his name.

768. The question was put, whether he was not as independent of his master as his master was of him, and you said that he was not; what was your reason for saying that?—The difficulty of obtaining employment elsewhere.

769. Do you think that that exists with regard to a trade so common as that of a packer, which is universal all over England?—I presume that that was his reason.

770. Did he state it to you?—He said that he was afraid of being dismissed. Whether he might find difficulty in getting employment elsewhere or not, I am not informed.

771. Did not you state, in your former evidence, that you conceived the people employed in the bleach-works to be healthy as a class?—I did.

772. Who do you mean?—The whole of the operatives, with the exception, perhaps, of the finishers, who work in a very high temperature.

773. What proportion do they bear to the whole number of men employed in bleach-works?—I do not know.

774. Are not the finishers, who are working in the high temperature, more liable to diseases of the chest than the other workers?—I think they are.

775. Have many cases of that kind occurred?—They have.

776. Are they more liable than the same class of persons employed in a similar atmosphere in factories?—I think that they are employed at a higher temperature than most of the factory operatives, or than any of them.

777. Are there any particles, such as there are in cotton-mills, floating in the atmosphere?—I believe there are not; the only thing that we could suspect would be chlorine, and I think they inhale it in so diluted a form as not to be injurious to them.

778. Would not it be dangerous to have any portion of chlorine in the cloth?—I should suppose that no chlorine is left in the cloth.

779. Would it not be, in fact, destructive of the vegetable fibres in the cloth if you left any chlorine in it?—I suppose it would.

780. How could the operatives inhale a thing that is not present?—I presume the chlorine is disengaged in the process of bleaching, and I could suppose that, if it were disengaged to any large extent in a condensed form, it would be injurious.

781. How could that occur in the finishing-rooms, seeing that if there is any chlorine left in the cloth it will destroy it?—I am not stating that any chlorine is left in the cloth.

782. Did not you say that the operatives were likely to inhale chlorine?—I said that is the only noxious ingredient that they would be likely to inhale; I am not aware that I have witnessed any injurious consequences from that cause, and that if they inhale it at all, I say that it is in so diluted a form as never to be injurious.

783. Viscount *Goderich*.] Will you state to the Committee what is the average heat of the stoves in the finishing-rooms?—I think that in the finishing-rooms it is from 80 to 100 or 110 degrees, but I do not know from personal experience.

784. Lord *John Manners*.] Are the children and the young females who are subject to those long hours affected in any particular way?—I think they suffer chiefly from swelling of the legs and feet, and from varicose veins, and occasionally from ulceration of the lower extremities.

785. Have you witnessed those things yourself?—I have.

786. Have you seen any bones distorted at all?—Never.

787. Have you witnessed the skin off the feet of children and young females?—I have.

788. Those

788. Those cases, as you have given the Committee to understand, are not frequent?—They are not frequent.

789. *Chairman.*] Are they more frequent in bleaching-works than in factories?—Yes; I believe they are, from the longer hours of labour.

790. Lord *John Manners.*] Are you an inspector of factories?—No, I have nothing to do with them officially.

791. Viscount *Goderich.*] Are you a certifying surgeon?—No; I am one of the surgeons of the Bolton infirmary, and I know something with reference to the comparative frequency of accidents in mills and at the bleach-works.

792. Mr. *Turner.*] In your evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, you say you are of opinion that accidents are fewer in bleach-works than in factories; is that still your opinion?—I think that is the case.

793. Lord *John Manners.*] Has your attention been called to the provisions of the Bill that has been before Parliament more than once on the subject of bleach-works?—Not especially, except by the committee in Bolton.

794. Do you think it would be advisable to prohibit the working of young children under 11 in bleach-works?—I think it would be very advisable; I think it would be as well to prevent their introduction under the age of 11 or 12.

795. *Chairman.*] Did you hear Mr. Robinson's evidence as to the value of the education clauses in the Factory Act?—Yes.

796. Supposing the educational clauses were inserted in the Bill, and that the people were permitted to enter their children at eight years of age, under the educational clauses, what would you say to that?—I think there would be no objection, if they were made applicable to factories.

797. Viscount *Goderich.*] You would have no objection to beginning as early as eight?—As early as ten.

798. *Chairman.*] Would you confirm the opinion you heard Mr. Robinson express, that it would be better for a child to be put to work at an early age, with provision for his education, than to be kept without work and education?—I think if the child is properly provided for as to food, and has a proper place to live in, he is better without physical labour until the age of 11 or 12.

799. Viscount *Goderich.*] Are you aware that the children begin work in the cotton factories at eight years of age?—No, I was not aware of it.

800. Lord *John Manners.*] You were asked whether you would prohibit an adult man from working 16 hours a day; have you ever heard of a ploughman working 16 hours a day?—I have not ever come across ploughmen, and I do not know much about them.

801. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You were asked whether you would propose by law to stop the labour of housemaids, and people who laboured in gin palaces, and so on; do you see any objection to interposing, by means of law, to restrict the labour of young persons in factories, that being practicable, although you cannot do it in gin palaces and other places: do not you think it is more practicable to restrict the labour of young persons in factories than to restrict the labour of any persons working in such places as gin-palaces?—Yes; that is the reason why I propose it.

802. It is practicable in one case, but not in the other?—Yes; and that is the reason why I answer the question in that form.

803. Why is it not practicable to shut up a gin palace at six in the evening, as well as a mill?—You may shut up a gin palace.

804. Mr. *Turner.*] Do you go to the length of wishing the Legislature to deal with adult labour?—I think it is most desirable, and I think there would be the greatest gain by it, inasmuch as they are the greatest number; I said that I thought it would be advisable that no individual should labour more than 12 hours a day.

805. Now may I ask you whether you would confine the hours of labour of sailors at sea?—By no means.

806. Of course they have to work according to the exigencies of the time and the weather?—It would be impossible to regulate that; it is absurd to suppose it.

807. May not such a principle exist in other trades, rendering it almost practically impossible to stop at particular hours?—I think it is not so in the bleach-works; but that is a question no doubt that will be answered more satisfactorily by artizans who are employed in them, and by the proprietors.

808. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are you aware that in many parts of the country there are such things as bleach-fields, in which the great majority of the processes are conducted in open air, and are analogous to agricultural labour?—I do not know whether

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whether there are establishments of that kind; but there are no such things at Bolton.

809. Mr. *Wise.*] Are not your answers given not as a political economist, but simply as a medical man?—Yes.

810. Do you state that too many hours are injurious to men on account of their health?—That is so.

811. Are you of opinion that it is as injurious to the masters as the men?—It can have no effect upon the masters.

812. Do you think that a man can work as well after he has worked 12 hours as he could before?—No, I do not think he can.

813. Would not he be unfit for labour after 12 hours?—I think that his labour after he has laboured 12 hours must be less productive than at the commencement.

814. Do not you think that under those circumstances he is of very little advantage to his master?—Not so much as he was at first.

Veneris, 12° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Butt.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Turner.
Viscount Goderich.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Kirk.	

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Robert Haywood*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Haywood.*

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815. *Chairman.*] WHAT is the nature of your employment?—I am connected with bleaching, though I do not take any active part in it; many years ago I lent monies on mortgage; the parties were not successful, and the works were thrown upon me. I advertised them for a year or two to let for bleaching and dyeing, not being brought up to that trade; but not succeeding, I was recommended by a friend to commence bleaching, and to employ some person to manage it for me connected with the bleaching; it is carried on at Salford under management; I have not much knowledge of it, being in no way concerned in it except being the proprietor.

816. How long ago was this?—Nearly 20 years.

817. Do you continue, up to the present time, the proprietor of those works?—I do.

818. Mr. *Cobbett.*] This was in Salford, was it?—It was.

819. How many hands did you employ in Salford, do you think?—I hardly know; between 20 and 30, I think; they have been reduced upon some improvements in machinery lately being made.

820. Was your foreman a person of the name of Ralph?—No; William Moseley.

821. Have you a person of the name of Ralph in your employ?—Not that I am aware of; but I hardly know any of the persons except the manager, William Moseley.

822. Are you enabled to state to the Committee what are the processes carried on in your bleaching-works?—I cannot well explain that; I am not at all a bleacher; I have been merely thrown into it in the way I have mentioned.

823. Do you know whether the first process is singeing?—Yes, I think it is.

824. Is the second, the lime process, called stewing?—I believe it is.

825. Is the third process boiling?—I think so; I really am not acquainted with the process, but I believe it is.

826. Can you say anything with regard to the hours of work in bleaching-works or in your own works?—In my own, for a considerable time past, they have been

been very inconsiderable; we have not had much work; but in some more extensive concerns they have worked very considerably indeed, and, as I think, very improperly for the health of the parties.

827. I must ask you at once whether you think, from what you know of bleaching-works in your part of the country, that it would be advisable and right that there should be a limitation by law of the hours of work for females and young persons?—I do, quite; I think that nothing but legislative interference can remedy the evil.

828. Do you know whether, at various times, master bleachers have agreed with one another to shorten the hours, and whether that has been unsuccessful by some having broken that agreement?—I am not aware of that circumstance having occurred; I have very little to do with the bleaching myself, except in the way I have mentioned.

829. It has been stated that there may be an inconvenience, or rather an impracticability, in carrying out any law upon the subject, as the master bleachers are compelled to take in work very much larger in quantity at some times than at others, and that they are therefore obliged to work their hands at very long hours, in order to get that work done; do you think there would be any inconvenience, or that it would be practicable to carry on your business, the hours of labour being shortened?—I have no doubt myself that it would be practicable, and I think such arrangements would be made with regard to cloth that it would not be necessary to make these "pushers," as they are called, that is, working over-hours.

830. Will you explain to the Committee how you think these arrangements could be made?—I have no doubt as appeared in the report.

831. Are you alluding to Mr. Tremenheere's report?—Yes; and I am very glad to find from that report that some of the chief merchants in Manchester can say that such arrangements could be made to adopt the more regular employment of hands.

832. If I understand you rightly, the merchant is the person that compels the bleacher to work at those long hours?—Yes.

833. Because the merchant is the pusher?—Yes; quite so.

834. It is not the desire of the bleacher to work his hands in this manner, or to accumulate goods, or to get them done in that short space of time that they frequently are?—Not at all; I think he would be very glad to have regular employment; but they have a lot of goods, and they say, "If you cannot do them in such a time, we must send them to another place," and that induces both the master and the men to make an effort; but I was glad to find that they were willing to fall into arrangements, and allow a reasonable time, as appeared in that report.

835. I do not understand from you that, in your own works, you do practise very long hours of work?—I am sorry to say that for the last three or four years we have never been employed for a long time, not even the ordinary time; not to 12 or 10 hours; not even eight.

836. You attribute it then, do you, to a want of business?—Yes, there has been a falling off of business.

837. Has it been a falling off, do you think, of your own particular business, or has it been general?—I think it has been rather our particular trade.

838. But during this time, while you and your own particular works have been so slack, do you know whether the long hours have still continued in other branches of the same business?—They have in some other concerns, no doubt.

839. Are you acquainted with the master bleachers of Bolton and their mode of carrying on their business?—I have heard of them.

840. And I suppose what you know of them is from general reputation?—Quite so.

841. From what you did hear in that way, do you think that they carry on their business under the long hours of work?—Some of them very long indeed.

842. Has that induced you to think that there ought to be legislative interference?—Quite so.

843. And is it going on still?—It is, indeed.

844. Mr. *Turner.*] You are not very actively employed, I think you said, as a bleacher now?—No, I never have been personally.

845. Therefore you do not consider yourself very competent to give many particulars with regard to the bleaching business?—Quite so.

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846. Do you consider that mills are more favourably situated to bleach work now than the factories?—Very much; I hear that repeatedly, both from the masters and hands.

847. Is the occupation in the mills equally healthy with that of the bleaching-works?—Some part of the bleaching-works is less healthy, I should think, perhaps, but I do not know.

848. You say that it is the desire of the merchants, but not the desire of the bleachers or the men, that those long hours in bleaching should take place?—I am sure it is the desire of the men.

849. That they should not take place?—That there should not be extra labour.

850. But it is forced upon them by the merchants?—No doubt.

851. What causes the merchants to force this extra exertion upon them occasionally?—I suppose some ship may be sailing by which the order is to be sent off.

852. And can the merchants control the necessity of these bleachers on such occasions?—I should think they might; if they were all placed on one footing it must be controlled.

853. Have you much experience as a merchant?—Certainly not.

854. And therefore you do not know the difficulty a merchant is sometimes placed in in order to meet the demands of a foreign merchant?—No; but I think arrangements might be made; it is not needful to work so many hours.

855. But when these pushes do come, is he to execute them, or to write to his correspondents that he cannot get the bleachers to finish the goods in time?—I think he would be able to get them done; there is no difficulty, only they must have a little more time allowed for the bleaching.

856. Your works have not been employed more than eight hours, you say, on an average for some time?—Certainly.

857. Then your hands must be peculiarly happy and satisfied?—No; I think we are not seeking for an eight hours' bill. I am not aware that such a thing is in contemplation.

858. But you think that you always could get the same regular supply of work if this legislative act was passed, in the same way that the millowner can get his supply of cotton?—Not quite so regularly, but I think it would be very much more regular than it has hitherto been.

859. A mill, I think, can be stopped at any time, and commenced again, exactly at the point where it stopped, next morning, without any detriment to any operation going on?—I suppose it can.

860. The bleaching-works?—Yes, I think they may be; they are stopped on Sundays and they may be stopped at other times, and I think without inconvenience or any loss.

861. Mr. *Davison.*] Is your knowledge of the works of other bleachers as extensive as of your own?—Certainly not; it cannot be; I do not know anything of others, and I do not know much of my own.

862. You have not much experience, either, as a merchant?—No.

863. But as far as that experience goes, your idea is this; that a merchant should anticipate orders by purchasing goods and holding them over himself, to meet demands?—I think that is about the case.

864. To invest his capital in speculations and keep the goods lying there for orders that would never arrive, that is your idea of the business of a merchant?—I do not think it would be of that consequence.

865. But it must, must it not?—Sometimes it might.

866. Your concern is not much employed at present?—No.

867. Perhaps there might be greater employment if some could be taken from the other bleachers?—I dare say if we had some work from other places, we should be better employed, no doubt.

868. That would be a desirable end for a mortgagee in possession?—Yes, I should like to have more work, though I do not, and never did, seek 24 hours a day.

869. I understand you have a decided objection to that?—I have, indeed.

870. Mr. *Butt.*] Have you had any opportunity of observing the effect of the Acts limiting the hours of labour in the factories?—I have heard on all sides that that has been highly beneficial, that the hands are both more healthy, and that they employ the leisure time very advantageously. I have heard that both from the spinners themselves and the operatives universally admitted. I had some friends

friends very much opposed to interference in the spinning, and I was blamed for sanctioning it; but I rejoice to find since, that the master spinners as well as the employed quite approve of the restrictions on that. Mr. *R. Haywood.* 12 June 1857.

871. Do you think generally speaking, that the employers are satisfied with the alteration of these Acts?—I think they are; they do not like the interference of the inspector, but I find there is no other objection; at least, I find none.

872. They find the limitation of the hours of labour advantageous?—I believe they do.

873. I believe you yourself were opposed to the Factory Act?—At one time, on principle, we did not like interference; but that is an evil, I think, that could only be remedied by legislative interference.

874. You think the same remedies apply to bleaching-works?—Yes.

875. And do you think there would be the same results, namely, to give satisfaction to the employers and to the employed?—I think so.

876. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do I understand that you were the mortgagee?—In the first instance.

877. But the works still belong to yourself, at the present time?—Entirely so.

878. How long have they belonged to you?—Nearly 20 years; they have been 15 in my hands.

879. And you have carried on the business 15 years?—Yes.

880. Then, notwithstanding it might be possible that the legislative interference would be injurious to your interests, I understand you to be ready to run those risks for the sake of humanity towards your working people?—Entirely; I should be very sorry to receive money at such a sacrifice as I know this demands.

Mr. *Henry Waring*, called in; and Examined.

881. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee what your occupation is?—I am a Bleacher by trade. Mr. *H. Waring.*

882. How many years have you been engaged in that trade?—Forty-two years, I worked at it.

883. Are you working at it now?—No; they turned me off for being too old.

884. How long ago were you turned off?—Somewhere about three years.

885. But up to the last three years you were actively engaged in that trade?—Yes; I have never been engaged in anything else in my life.

886. In whose mills have you worked chiefly?—I worked at Backoth Bank, for Mr. Slater, 38 years and a month.

887. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Is that near Bolton?—Yes, quite close; I worked at other places before that.

888. *Chairman.*] I believe you gave evidence before the Commissioner a few years ago?—Yes.

889. Have any alterations taken place in the process of bleaching since you gave that evidence; of any importance, I mean?—No; I do not think there have.

890. Therefore, the evidence which you gave then is applicable to the state of things now?—Yes; they were engaged then with machinery, and they are going on now with the same process.

891. Have you seen any reason to change your opinions at all since you gave that evidence?—Not at all; I do not feel that I have.

892. Mr. *Cobbett.*] At the time when you first became a bleacher, I believe a good deal of the bleaching was done in fields?—Yes.

893. In the open air?—Yes.

894. You did it all in the open air?—Yes.

895. How long is it since that was discontinued, and the cotton goods were bleached under cover in bleaching-works?—We have done some for about 40 years, or about 45.

896. Will you be so good as to tell me what are the processes in bleaching cotton goods?—At the first commencement, the singeing.

897. That is, passing a hot iron, is it not, over the goods?—Yes, dressing or oozing the nap of the cloth.

898. You pass a hot iron rapidly over it?—Yes, it passes over a hot iron; it is a fixed thing, and it passes over it.

899. What is the second process?—Generally, they put them to steep after that.

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900. Do they sometimes call that stewing?—No, stewing comes next after steeping; the lime process is the next.

901. That is boiling in lime, is it not?—Yes,

902. What is the third process?—They are washed out of that well, and then they are put into a boiler.

903. In soda-ash, or something of that sort?—Yes, in soda-ash or soda.

904. What is the fourth?—They wash them out of that, and put them to chemical.

905. That is some chemical preparation, is it not?—Yes.

906. What is the next?—They wash them out of the chemical process, and commence souring.

907. Then after you have finished that, the goods are called half white, are they not?—Yes.

908. Or one-worked, is not that so?—Yes, it is one-work as far as that.

909. What do you do next?—We boil them again.

910. Do you begin the whole process again?—Yes, we boil them again in ashes after they have been soured.

911. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you not wash after souring?—Yes.

912. You singe again, do you not?—No, that is done away with; one singeing is sufficient.

913. What do you do then?—We boil them again, then chemical; after that they are washed out and boiled, and then the red ends we give them a good rinsing in clear water till we sour them.

914. Do you sour them again?—Yes.

915. What do you do after that?—Then they are washed and blued; a shade of blue is put in in general.

916. Is that for the purpose of stiffening?—No, to prepare them for stiffening.

917. What is the next thing after that?—Then we have done with them; the mangler commences with them then.

918. What does the mangler do with them?—They are stitched together, 30 or 40 hundredweight altogether, and they are not unstitched again until they come into the making-up room.

919. Have you now gone through all the processes?—Yes.

920. Is it necessary that all these processes should be carried on continuously, one after another, or can you stop at the end of every one, and suffer the goods to remain, we will say, 8, 10, or 12 or 24 hours, without their spoiling?—Yes; and keep the end good too.

921. It is supposed by some persons, that when you once begin one of these processes, you must go on through the whole of them without leaving off, or the goods will be spoiled; I want to know whether you can begin and continue to the end, and break off at any time with any one of them, and let the goods remain 20 or 24 hours, and then take it up where you left off, and go on with the rest of the process, without spoiling the goods?—If they knew the time to go they would make a way for it; if they understood their business, they would know when to leave them in a safe state. How do they do it at Christmas or Whitsuntide? they can leave them in a safe state, then, for three or four days, and cannot they do so at another time as well?

922. Then you mean that with a little care, at any rate, they could at all times leave off when they pleased, and continue the work again without spoiling it?—Yes, they could leave off at any time, I will guarantee that; I was a foreman for 14 years, and answerable for every end.

923. Were you foreman to Mr. Slater?—No.

924. Where were you foreman?—At the same place, but under Mr. Cocker.

925. During the time you have been working in bleaching-works, has it appeared to you that the hours of work were too long?—Yes; I think they are much too long, but if we did not do it, they would turn us off. These masters were in a bond at Manchester; and if the men grumbled, they would give them a quittance-paper, and you have to go home again, for they would not employ you.

926. You mean they would give a quittance-paper to the working men?—Yes; they would give the quittance-paper to the working men, if they did not do the work.

927. Mr. *Turner.*] Do you know that of your own knowledge, or have you only heard it?—I have seen plenty of quittance-papers in my time.

928. But have the masters made a compact with each other to do this?—They

They have said to a man, when they have turned him off, "He will have to come back crying to me," and that has been the case many a time.

929. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Have you known that to be the case?—Yes; I have known it to be the case.

930. Were the hours of work at the time you first became a workman as long as they have been of late years?—No.

931. When did you begin?—We began at 7 o'clock on Monday morning, and we gave over at six at night; and every other morning we began at six and gave over at six, and at four o'clock on Saturday.

932. That was when you worked in the fields, was it?—Yes.

933. When was there any alteration, that you remember; was it when you went into the bleaching-works, under cover, or did the long hours begin before you had left the fields?—The masters then began ruling their hours of labour according to the quantity of work which they got; they would take in quantities of work, and they would work their hands, like any piece of machinery, until they had done it.

934. When was that?—That would be 40 years ago.

935. That was when you were working in the fields, then?—No; after that.

936. Then the long hours began after you began working under cover, in houses?—Yes.

937. Did it begin as soon as you begun working in the houses?—Yes; it begun about that time, and it has kept continuing.

938. Has it continued about the same from that time?—No; it has a little bit amended, because they have extended their works; but still they will take any quantity, and make their men work any quantity of hours, if they can get work. They arrange the hours of labour according to the quantity of work they can get.

939. About when did it begin to amend?—About eight or nine or ten years ago.

940. During the time that you were at work, between eight and 10 years ago, what were the hours; were they regular, or were they sometimes very long hours and sometimes very short hours?—The boys and I washed the cloth after two men, and when one man had done work another came that commenced at five in the morning, and we washed till one o'clock; when the boys and I had half done, then another man came on, and then we kept continuing on from eight or nine, or 10 o'clock at night, and sometimes till 11 or 12.

941. Did I understand you to say, that you worked all that time?—Yes, I did; the boys and I, together.

942. And you stopped at one o'clock?—At one o'clock at night, sometimes, if our work was done; but we did not stop then if the work was not done.

943. Did you stop for meals?—Not much for meals.

944. How did you get your meals?—Many a score of meal I got was by putting a piece of bread and butter on the cloth and biting it as I went on; we used not to have meal-times then, we had not time for it generally.

945. Did the young people work in the same way with you?—Yes, the boys had to work along with me.

946. Were there any females who worked in the same place?—No, not any.

947. What was that work called?—Taking off squeezers; squeezing wet cloth; preparing it for mangling.

948. Were there females and young persons working in the same establishment?—Yes, just up to me.

949. What hours of work did they go through?—The same as I said before, whatever amount of work the master wanted done. It would sometimes happen on a Monday morning, when a ship order has come in, we have commenced at two or three o'clock, or sometimes at 12 o'clock; and my wife has had her stays laced at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and she has never had them unlaced again, and never been in her bed all the week; she has been lying on a table, or any place wherever she could get to for half an hour; sometimes we used to take her breakfast to her to see how she was getting on, and we sometimes found her lying under the table, or anywhere; that was when we lived at Croft; then we began to have children, and in the thronged time we had to do just the same.

950. You say, you have known your own wife work in this way for a whole week, without having her stays off?—Yes, from Sunday night till the next Saturday, a whole week, many a time.

951. How long ago is it that you remember such a thing as that?—It is about 40 years ago.

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952. That was when you first began working, then, in the houses?—Yes.

953. Do you know whether the long hours have continued up to the present time, or within a short time of the present time?—Bleaching-works have been rather slack of late; there are some now rather thronged, and some are very slack; Mr. Blair is very slack at the present time, and Mr. Holmes is very thronged.

954. What had been the hours of work of late years; do you remember when this agitation began about the bleachers?—Yes.

955. What has been the hours of work of late?—I worked somewhere about 16 hours a day for 11 years.

956. Up to about what time?—Up to about three or four years ago.

957. That was when you left off, I suppose?—Yes, somewhere thereabout.

958. What have been the hours of work for females and young persons during that time; had they worked the same hours or not?—All the boys had to work along with me all that time.

959. Do you know any instance in which persons have worked 24 hours at a time of late years?—Yes, many a time.

960. Do you know instances in which they have worked two or three days and nights continuously?—Yes.

961. Lying on the table as you have described, years ago?—Yes.

962. Have they done that of late years?—Not as much as they did, because they do not get that amount of work.

963. Have they done it at all, should you say?—Yes, they have worked late lately at different places.

964. Where the master bleacher has work to go on with, what should you say are the ordinary common hours of work?—It depends upon the work; if they can get work they will have it done.

965. If the master bleacher has the work to do he will do it?—Yes.

966. And will he have recourse to the long hours of work?—Yes, he will work them now the same as ever, if he can get work to do; they will have it done, or turn you off.

967. If I were to go down to one of these bleach-works at the present moment, and got up when the work-people did, and remained in the works until the work-people came away, do you think I should find them working 8, 10, 12 and 16 hours a day?—You would find them mostly working 14 or 16 hours finishing.

968. Now?—Yes, when they are strong at work.

969. Should I find females and young lads at work in the same way?—Yes.

970. Has it been matter of complaint amongst your class of people that their health has been impaired by their long hours?—Yes; I can tell you one thing, when we bleached goods on the ground years ago, when young men were springing up about Bolton, I believe I could have picked out 500 men that would have done for the Life Guards; at Mr. George Blair's place, they were fine men; they were called "Big Sam" and "Big Joe;" but if you were to come down there now, I do not think you could get one out of them fit for a marine.

971. Do you think that that has been caused by these long hours of work; that it has reduced the class of people?—Yes, I do think it, and nothing else.

972. Do you think it has reduced their physical strength?—Yes; boys have worked with me, and when we have been going from our work at night, they have laid them down in a barrow, and any where, and slept, just when their work was not ready; when they would have to wait a time or two, they would throw them on the stairs, or into a wheel-barrow, and you would have to give them a pretty smart shaking to wake them up; I have done so many a time, and there has been scarcely one of them that could tell a letter in a book. I had two boys with me who commenced about nine years of age, and they grew up, and when they were married neither of them could tell a letter in a book.

973. Mr. *Davison.*] How long ago was that?—About eight or nine years since. They have become young men, and some time back, when the people came down there to take an estimate of how many people there were of one religion, and how many there were of another, one of them came to me and asked me, "What religion am I to call myself?" I said to him, "Call yourself by what you are;" and he said "What am I to do?" I said, "You may call yourself anything, according to where you go to." He said, "Well, I never went to any place of worship since I went there with Kit;" and another says, "I never went to any place of worship since I went there with Nan." Then I said, "Them as goes nowhere

nowhere, I suppose, may call themselves church people," and they went up and stated they were church people. That is quite true, and there are many hundred females that cannot tell a letter in a book. My wife has six brothers now grown up young men, working at Orridge & Holmes', and four sisters; there are 10 of them altogether, and the whole 10 cannot tell 10 letters in a book; not a letter a-piece.

974. *Chairman.*] Is that because they would not go to any school to learn, or because they had no opportunity of doing so?—They worked such long hours, they were not able. A chap would come in and say, "Betty, call these lads up, and let them go to school, as well as the other lads;" "God bless you," she would say, "they have been out of their beds all the week, and let them lay still," and they would lay. Some of them would have their dinners up-stairs, and at one or two o'clock in the afternoon they would come down and brush the cobwebs from their eyes, wash themselves, and go out and take a bit of a walk, and then come home and go to bed again, and get up and commence on Monday morning just the same as before.

975. Mr. *Davison.*] How long ago is that you are speaking of?—About 30 years.

976. How long is it since you were dismissed from the works in consequence of being too old?—Near upon three years.

977. What age are you?—About 65.

978. Was it since then that you gave your evidence to Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes; I had been turned out six months, then; I had been 20 years in the service, and not away one day, except Sunday and Christmas time.

979. What are the ordinary hours of work at these places when there is not a push, as you call it?—Sometimes it may happen to be seven or eight, or nine or ten, or sometimes twelve hours, and sometimes it may run a month so.

980. And when these pushes come, then there are the long hours that you speak of?—Yes; they have their work to do before they can go.

981. *Chairman.*] I think you have said that when the work was done in the fields, these long hours were not heard of?—Oh no; they gave over at a regular time of night.

982. How did the merchants then manage with respect to their orders?—They did with those hours; but the merchants will keep their work back, to see which master will take it at the lowest price.

983. Mr. *Davison.*] Thirty years ago the orders from the Manchester and other merchants were not so numerous, were they?—No; we never heard tell of any pushes then. We gave over at regular times. We began at six in the morning and finished at six at night; I never heard tell of pushes then; the cloth used to take its regular course, and both master and men were satisfied then.

984. The trade was then in an evenly state, as it is called?—Yes.

985. Mr. *Butt.*] Have you ever seen bad effects produced upon the work by these long hours?—Yes, many a time.

986. In what way?—When the mangler has worked for a certain time, he begins to be sleepy and nodding; or the stitcher, he will kneel upon one knee, and then upon the other, and rest himself, but he cannot help sleeping and nodding; the cloth will begin to get crooked in the mangling. It gets spoiled and crumpled, and sometimes cut.

987. You have seen that as the result of over hours, have you?—Yes, I have, many a time.

988. Have you seen that occur lately within the last 10 years?—I do not know that I have just of late.

989. Have you ever known the work to be sent back to the bleacher to be done over again, in consequence of it being spoiled in that way?—Yes; if it is not stiffened properly it would have to be done afresh when it is not properly worked.

990. You have known that to occur?—Yes, thousands of times.

991. Have you known it to be sent back?—Yes, it is what is occurring regularly.

992. When the work is sent back, is there any deduction made from the wages of the men in consequence of it being spoiled?—He has a price for doing the work, and he has to do it, and he would have to do it over again; I do not know that he gets anything for that.

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993. Mr. *Packe.*] You have told us that some time ago, when you and the boys worked from morning till 12 o'clock at night, that you washed eight or ten tons of cloth a day?—Yes, and we have done nine tons of cloth a day for 12 months.

994. What was the age of those boys who worked with you?—I had three of them from about 9 or 10 years of age, and three or four from about 14 or 15, and two men along with them.

995. Were there three boys as young as nine years of age?—Yes, 9 or 10; they commenced first by taking off squeezers.

996. And you say that now there are females and lads working as long as 16 hours a day?—Yes, they do when there is work to do, and more than that.

997. What are the ages of these lads that are working for 16 hours a day?—They will take them at all ages.

998. You were asked how long they would be found working now, and your answer was, 16 hours a day, females and boys?—Yes, when they get work.

999. What I want to know is, what are the ages of these lads who are now working at 16 hours a day?—I have one working now that is 13 years of age, and he has worked for four years.

1000. Are there any as young working now as nine or ten years of age?—I do not think there are quite as young now as there were a few years back, but there are very little ones working now at plaiting down.

1001. As young as what?—As young as nine years of age.

1002. Working as long as 16 hours a day?—As I said before, they work on until their work is done, in a push.

1003. Do you mean boys as young as nine are now working for 16 hours a day?—Yes, when there is work to do, they must work that time.

1004. And at that age?—Yes, they take no notice of their age.

1005. You say your wife has been working a week together without taking off her stays and going to bed?—Yes, many a time.

1006. What was the work that she was employed on?—She was in the finishing department.

1007. How long ago is that?—Near 40 years.

1008. Is your wife working there now?—No.

1009. How long has she left off?—Many years; I can't justly tell when she began; it was when we had a good many children.

1010. Mr. *Davison.*] As much as 20 years ago?—Yes, more than 20.

1011. Mr. *Packe.*] Up to the time of her giving up, did she work that length of time?—Yes, she worked for years after we were married.

1012. And up to the time of her giving up?—Yes.

1013. What, for a week together without going to bed?—Yes, many a time.

1014. Up to the time of her giving up?—Yes.

1015. Mr. *Butt.*] Do I understand you to say, that you have at this time children working in the bleaching-works?—Yes.

1016. How many children are working now in the bleaching-works?—Three.

1017. And one of them, you say, is a boy of 15?—Between 12 and 13.

1018. How late have any of your children been kept at the bleaching-works within the last year?—I have one that has been for two years, and I dare say for six months at a time has never been home before 11 o'clock; that is within the last twelve months.

1019. Is that a boy?—No, a lass; a stitcher.

1020. What time does she go to the works in the morning?—Sometimes at six, sometimes at seven, and sometimes five; it depends upon the work.

1021. What age is she?—Twenty-four.

1022. Then do I understand you that she has been for six months together, working from 5, 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning until 11 at night?—Yes.

1023. Continuously?—Yes; for six months together, I think.

1024. Has she ever been kept later than 11 o'clock at night?—I can't say justly, sometimes they have been kept till 12, sometimes till one, but not as a regular thing.

1025. Have you known that daughter of yours to come home as late as one o'clock?—Yes, at two o'clock in the morning.

1026. Within the last year?—Within the last 12 months.

1027. *Chairman.*] Has that been in winter or in summer, or in both?—It makes no difference in winter or summer; they must do their work.

1028. How

1028. Mr. *Butt.*] How late has your boy come home within the last year?—He does not make many hours; he is working amongst very strong goods; and those machines will run a hundredweight a minute, or less.

1029. In point of fact, has he come home late or early?—No; he makes very little hours.

1030. Then he comes home early?—Yes.

1031. He has not been kept late?—No.

1032. Have you ever known your daughter kept all night at the works, as you say your wife used to be?—Yes, many a time.

1033. Has that been lately?—Twelve months since, or about that.

1034. Have you known your daughter remain all night at work?—Yes; and come home in the morning, have five or six hours' sleep, and go back again at noon.

1035. When she was kept all night, at what time did she come home in the morning?—At 6 or 7 o'clock; and then she would go to bed until 12 o'clock, and then be back again by the bell ringing at one o'clock, and commence again.

1036. How often has that happened within the last twelve months?—Not very often.

1037. Has it happened two or more times?—Yes, many a time.

1038. Did you ever know it happen two nights running?—I do not know about two nights, because there are two or three stitchers, and they stop their turn.

1039. Mr. *Packe.*] What was the age of your daughter at the time you are speaking of?—About 22 or 23.

1040. Mr. *Butt.*] Of course she slept there without taking off her clothes, what sleep she got?—Yes; she would have no time for that.

1041. Mr. *Turner.*] I think you say you are 64 years of age?—Yes.

1042. How long have you worked at the occupation of bleacher?—It is 52 years since I first commenced.

1043. What is the age of your wife?—About 62.

1044. Of course she did not begin quite so early; how long had she worked at the business?—She never did anything before she worked at the bleaching-works.

1045. What family had you?—Sixteen children.

1046. Have you ever suffered much in your health?—I have had very good health in the commencement of my days; I got healthy and strong by working out in the fields.

1047. Your wife, of course, has been a healthy woman, if she has had 16 children?—Very decent, for the matter of that.

1048. What wages have you been in the habit of getting when you were in your prime?—From 20 *s.* up to 30 *s.* at times.

1049. Are your children as ignorant as those you have described, who do not know their letters?—There are some that can't read much.

1050. At what age did you send them to the bleaching-works, when you were getting your 30 *s.* per week?—When the master wanted a hand, he did not care how soon they came.

1051. Do you think that you were doing your duty as a father of a family, when you were getting 30 *s.* a week, in entirely neglecting the education of your children?—There were these long hours, you see.

1052. But I mean in sending them at all until they had got some education; was it not your duty as a father to send your children to school, in order that they might obtain some education, when you were earning 30 *s.* a week?—I will tell you the way I was fixed; I was for seven years with sickness in the house; I buried a young man of 20, a young woman of 27, and another of 15, and that took all my earnings; there was hardly ever a day without sickness in the house for seven years.

1053. Are you the father of John Waring, who gave evidence a day or two ago?—Yes.

1054. He has been discharged, we understand, in consequence of being a delegate?—I do not know that, I am sure.

1055. He gave us to understand so, and that he could not get work; do you know what he has been working at for the last two years; has he been working at all for the last two years?—I am not willing to answer you every question.

1056. I want an answer to this question; has your son John Waring been working at anything during the last two years?—He does not live at home; he is here; you can ask him the question himself; I think he has been working at a foundry.

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1057. Then you do not think that it is the duty of a father of a family to look after these things, but you rather blame the master if he takes these young children?—When a father of a lot of children cannot get bread, he is willing to send them to work young, and to make any sort of sacrifice.

1058. But cannot you get bread at 30 *s.* per week?—That depends upon what I have going out; if I have 30 *s.* income and 40 *s.* outgoing, I cannot get bread quite so well.

1059. Do not you think it is much better that these young children should not be employed at all in bleaching-works?—I do not think it proper to employ them so early; I think that 12 or 13 years of age is quite young enough.

1060. Then what should a parent do with them; should he not attend to their education in some way?—Yes, to be sure he should.

1061. Is it a fact that the people in the manufacturing districts, generally, are unable to make provision for the education of their children?—There are libraries, and not schools.

1062. They are unable, from the want of arrangement, to give their children an education?—No; there are free libraries, but I do not think there is one in the bleaching department. I do not know if there is any library at Bolton; I do not believe there is one.

1063. They must have education before they can attend the library; should not the parent send them to schools of which there are numerous ones existing?—To be sure he should.

1064. But parents do not do that?—Some do, and some do not.

1065. Is that all the fault of the masters?—That has nothing to do with the masters, I should think.

1066. Then some blame attaches to the operatives themselves for not giving their children this advantage?—But where a man goes to work so early, and works these long times, if ever he has a chance he don't go regular; he can't for shame go into a school, because he has no education, and he sees little ones reading around him, and he can't put on a face to go.

1067. Mr. *Davison.*] But are not these long hours only in time of pushes?—Yes; I am telling you about times of pushes.

1068. Then at other times there is plenty of opportunity for the children to be sent to school, is there not?—Yes; but they do not like to go when they can't read a little.

1069. But they want to learn to read?—If the hours were limited that they could go, then there would be a regular time to go. It would not happen one day that they would go soon and another day late; but now it is late and soon, late and soon, and so on. If there was a regular time limited, at which they could go when their work was done, that would be a different thing.

1070. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is the usual practice in the neighbourhood of Bolton not to send the children to school at all?—Yes.

1071. They are not sent?—Very little.

1072. But they might go up to nine years of age; a child of seven can learn its letters and can learn to read, or even at six. Do you mean to say that from six years of age till nine, it is the usual practice at Bolton to allow the children to run about without any education whatever?—They are getting rather better education than they used to do.

1073. You have told us that many females of 15 or 16 could not read or write?—That was some time back, when the hours were long.

1074. Do the children in Bolton begin work before they are nine years of age? Yes; many of them.

1075. What, now?—Yes; now they do.

1076. At what time do they begin?—One of mine began when he was about seven or eight, or about eight.

1077. Was that at the desire of the master, or at your desire?—They wanted little boys then to plait down, because they would come at low wages.

1078. And you thought that you were performing your duty to your son in sending him there?—No; I objected to do it. I told the foreman he was too young, but the master said he would do very well, and he might come.

1079. But did he command you to let him come?—He said he might come.

1080. That he must come?—Yes.

1081. And do you mean to say that the masters of Bolton insist upon their workmen sending their children to work before they are nine years of age?—Yes; they will take them before they are nine years of age.

1082. That is not an answer to my question; give me a plain answer; is it your intention to convey to this Committee that the masters of Bolton insist upon their workmen sending their children to be employed before they are nine years of age?—Oh! no; they will let their parents have control over them.

1083. Do you think it would be a judicious and wise law to prohibit, by fine or imprisonment, any parent from sending their children to any employment before they are 12 or 13 years of age?—I should think 12 or 13 quite young enough.

1084. And would you be content that a law should pass imposing a fine upon you?—Yes; I should.

1085. *Chairman.*] Do I understand you to come here to complain either of the masters or of the parents of the children, for taking or sending children so young?—It was the men of Bolton that forced me to come up here; I did not want to come.

1086. But did you come up to complain of the masters; that it is altogether their fault for working these long hours?—Yes; they will force them to work at long hours when there is work to do, as I said before.

1087. What I want to know is, whether you come to complain of the masters as being especially to blame, or of the system generally under which these long hours are worked; you were asked whether it was the fault of the masters or of the parents that they were sent to work so young?—The masters always leant that way, because the younger the boys came, the less wages they would have to pay them; that has been the reason why they wanted them so young when they could get them.

1088. But as I understand you, you wish that these young children should not be employed at all?—Not at all under about 12 years of age.

1089. And you are anxious for a law to be passed upon the subject, to prevent these young children from being employed?—Yes; not under 12 years of age.

1090. Mr. *Butt.*] As to this conversation with the foreman, when your boy went, you say he was about eight years of age?—Yes.

1091. Was it the foreman who proposed to you to send him, or did you ask to have him taken in?—No, he said, they would do very well for their job, plaiting down.

1092. Did he speak to you first upon the subject?—Yes, he spoke to me first; I said, he was too young; he said, master had been asking for him to come; I said, "Tell master he is too young," and master said he was old enough.

1093. Mr. *Massey.*] Were you afraid of offending your master if you did not send him?—Yes, I was afraid of offending him.

1094. Then you would not have sent your child, if you had not been apprehensive of offending your master?—No; you must not offend your master, if you do, you know what would be the consequence.

1095. Supposing you had not sent your child when the foreman asked you to send him, and told you, that your master said he was old enough, were you afraid that you would have been discharged if you had not sent him?—Yes; I was always afraid of that.

1096. And that was the reason of your sending so young a child into the works, that you were afraid of offending your master?—Yes.

1097. And afraid, if you offended your master, he would have discharged you?—Yes.

1098. You say that distinctly, do you?—Yes, that was the reason.

1099. How long ago was this?—It happened about four years ago.

1100. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you know an instance where children have been required by the master to go into the works, and it has been refused, where the parents have been discharged?—I do not keep every thing in my head in that way; but I will tell you one thing: I had a daughter; they were very slack of work at Mr. Slater's, and she could have work at Meeting's Croft, if she could go; they let her go, for her to come back again when they were thronged, and when they were thronged they sent for her back; she would not come, so master told me to fetch her back. She would not come; I said they would bag me if she did not come. They said, "If they bag you we will help to keep you." Master came and said, "They have not put on your wench." I said, "No, they would have some time to give notice." He said, "Never mind notice; let her come back when we send for her." She would not come; I said I would see her at noon: he returned again. I said, "Well, to tell you the truth, she will not come." He said, "If she will not come you may prepare for the consequence."

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1101. Was that said to you?—Yes.

1102. What master was it that said that to you?—Mr. Joseph Slater.

1103. Mr. *Davison.*] What is the name of the foreman who you stated just now first applied to you to send your child?—I cannot justly mention that name.

1104. Is he living?—Yes, he is; he is not in the bleaching business now.

1105. Where does he live?—He lives somewhere near Hallowell.

1106. When did you see him last?—I saw him driving a cart about a month since.

1107. In whose employment is he; what is the name of his master?—He is for himself; he is not in any employ now.

1108. But in whose employment was he at the time you speak of?—In Mr. Slater's employment.

1109. And you say that the foreman told you that Mr. Slater desired you to send your son?—Yes.

1110. And you repeat that now?—Yes.

1111. You say you were not willing to come up here, but that you were forced to come, and that it was the people of Bolton forced you to come?—They wanted me to come, and said I knew the business as well as any man, and that I was a fit and proper person to come.

1112. Do you know any of those persons that urged you to come?—Yes, both males and females, and boys too.

1113. Any of your own boys?—No, not exactly of my own boys.

1114. None of your own boys did ask you to come, then?—No.

1115. Do you state that, that none of your own sons ever asked you to come?—I do not know that they ever did.

1116. Do you state that they did not?—No, I do not know that they ever did.

1117. Mr. *Wise.*] You have stated that in your time you could not afford to send your children to school; does that apply to the operatives who are now at work at Bolton; do you think they can afford to send their children to school now?—There are rather more going to school now than there were formerly.

1118. I ask you whether they can afford generally to send their children to school?—They cannot so well afford it.

1119. Then, if the children were not to go to work until they were 12 years of age, generally, what would you do with the juvenile population of Bolton?—There are ragged schools and free schools, and they can go to Sunday schools.

1120. What would you do with the mass of the juvenile population of Bolton if they were not allowed to work at all until they were 12 years of age?—They would get schooling.

1121. They would go to school generally, you think?—I think they would.

1122. Mr. *Kirk.*] If they remain out of work until they are 12 years of age why do they not get schooling before they are nine years of age; surely that is a very plain and simple question; I want an answer to it?—Well, I say if the hours of labour were restricted, in my opinion, they would get better still.

1123. What have the hours of labour to do with the not sending them to school before they begin to labour?—Some would go to school.

1124. Why do not all go?—How can I tell that? Every parent pleases himself about his own family.

1125. Supposing the hours of labour were restricted, would there be more wages paid to the work-people than for the long hours?—No, I do not think there would; it is not likely.

1126. How were you paid when you were in employment, by the day or by the piece?—By piece-work.

1127. And would not that still obtain; would you not still be paid by the piece?—Masters can please themselves whether they pay by the day or by the piece.

1128. Supposing you worked by the piece, and worked for 10 hours or 10 hours and a half, and had liberty to work 15 or 16 hours, which of those would produce the greatest amount of wages to you?—The 15 or 16 hours would amount to the most wages.

1129. When would the lessening of the wages enable the parents to send their children to school, to give them more education than they do now with the large wages?—You will bear in mind one thing——

1130. Give me a plain answer first to my very plain question; I ask you distinctly, if the parent earns less wages, will he have more to spend in the education of his children?—Apparently he would not have as much; but if he works them

so many hours more he has to have their bodies better supported with food, and their raiment will be wearing out; and if he has less wages they would do with less meat, and less clothing, and less fire, and that would meet the other end.

1131. What is the weekly cost of the education of a child under nine years of age at Bolton?—About 2 *d.* or 2 ½ *d.* a week before they begin to write.

1132. And you mean to tell the Committee that out of earnings amounting to 25 or 30 shillings a week, the work-people of Bolton are not able to spare 2 *d.* a week for the education of their children?—But they do not get that regularly; sometimes they do not get 15 *s.*

1133. Take it at 15 *s.*, are they not able to spare 2 *d.* a week out of that to educate their children; is that your evidence?—No; I have nothing to do with that; no further than every parent should give his children as much learning as he can.

1134. But it is in evidence from your own son, that you gave him no education; that he was nineteen before he could read?—I dare say that he was that, or more.

1135. He states that he learnt to read after he was 19, and therefore you had not done your duty to him; as to this child that you speak of, as having been last employed at the instance of the foreman, what education had that child?—He had very little.

1136. He was eight years of age, you say?—Between eight and nine.

1137. Had he been taught to read?—Yes; he had gone to school a little before.

1138. I am asking you if he had any, and what progress he had made?—He had gone to a Sunday school some little time before, and a little to a workhouse school.

1139. What day school did he go to within the last four years, and what amount did you pay for him, in order that he might be taught to read before he was nine years of age?—He paid 2½ *d.* a week.

1140. For how long?—A few years; I cannot exactly tell.

1141. And he was a few years at a school paying 2½ *d.* a week, and he could not read?—Yes; he could read a little.

1142. Were your children all brought up in the same way as those you formerly described to us; without the knowledge of what religion they belonged to?—The bleachers are pretty much of a set; I was not by myself.

1143. Did you bring up your children without taking them to any place of worship on the Sunday?—Yes; I never was brought up to any place of worship myself, and there is many a score besides myself in the same way.

1144. You told us, I think, and I think you mentioned in your former evidence here, that when you were a young man, you were at work from seven o'clock on the Monday morning till six in the evening, and that you left off on Saturday at four?—Yes.

1145. And do you mean to say that even then, when you left off on Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, that you went to no place of worship on the Sunday?—At some odd times I did.

1146. But you belonged to no regular place of worship?—No.

1147. To no sect of Christianity?—Not to join any sect.

1148. And you just lived without God in the world all your lifetime?—Yes; pretty well.

1149. And you brought up your family in the same way?—Yes; they were mostly brought up in that way all through the bleaching district.

1150. *Chairman.*] Are there any schools attached to any of the bleaching-works in Bolton?—I do not know one.

1151. You do not know of any instance in which a bleaching master has opened and established a school for the children he employs?—No, I do not know one; there was one at Halliwell. Mr. Ainsworth built a church, and there was a school erected there, and they did not attend the school. The minister was finding fault terribly because they did not attend the school, and he had some of the classes up, and they told him that they worked such long hours that they could not attend school. He said it was not right, and he made some remarks upon it; and Mr. Ainsworth said that those who did not go to the church and attend school, he would turn them off; and after the clergyman had preached that sermon, and discoursed upon it, Mr. Ainsworth said that anybody who did go he would turn them off. So it was a few weeks before, if they did not go, he would turn them off; and then he made a change when they talked about long hours

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and said they could not come to school, and said that if they did come, he would discharge them.

1152. Do you mean that the minister said that?—No, the master.

1153. The master said that the minister made a complaint that the children did not come; is that so?—Yes.

1154. Then the master said if they did not come, he would discharge them?—You do not rightly understand me.

1155. Then let us rightly understand you?—At Halliwell they built this church, and had a school, and the lasses at work at Halliwell bleach-works did not attend; the scholars were on and off; the minister wanted to know the reason why they did not attend, and they told him it was through the long hours of labour. The master said if they did not attend the place of worship, he would discharge them; but when the minister began finding fault and discoursed about the long hours of labour, and spoke about it at Bilpit, and the hardships they endured, then the master turned again, and said, if they went to hear him, that he would turn them off. He made that change, and he collected the books belonging to the chapel, and the school books. I do not know the tale through, but that is a part of it.

1156. Mr. *Packe.*] What is the name of the master who did this?—Mr. Ainsworth.

1157. *Chairman.*] Do you remember the name of the minister?—Milner, I think; I am not sure.

1158. How many years ago was this?—About four or five.

1159. With the exception of that school, you are not aware of any other school attached to bleaching-works in Bolton?—No, there is not one that I know of.

1160. Taking the parents of the children now employed in bleaching-works in Bolton generally, do you think that they have much education?—No, they have not; they have no education; I know many about me that cannot tell a letter in a book.

1161. And they do not care much about their children being educated, I suppose?—There are many of them who never had a book, and if they had one could not read it.

1162. Mr. *Davison.*] But, in point of fact, are there not plenty of schools there, although not connected with the bleaching-works?—Yes, there are plenty of schools, but they never have been brought up to them.

1163. So that parents, desirous of having their children educated, have abundance of opportunity of sending their young children to those schools; is not that so?—Yes; but you see this has been carried on for years and years, and they want a fresh beginning.

1164. I understand you to say that there are plenty of schools in Bolton?—Yes, there are plenty of schools.

1165. And abundance of opportunity of education afforded, if the parents embrace it?—Yes, the children can go.

1166. And the wages of the people there vary from 15*s.* to 30*s.* per week?—It is very seldom they get 30*s.*

1167. Take it as low as you like; say 15*s.*?—Between 15*s.* and 20*s.*

1168. And you mean to say that the people there, receiving from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week, do not send their children either to be educated at school, or to any place of worship; is that the general practice?—In the bleaching department.

1169. Do you mean now to tell us that it is the persons employed in the bleaching department who do not send their children to school?—Yes; it is not others; in fact, there are persons there who send theirs regularly.

1170. It is the bleachers who do not send their children to be educated?—Yes; I am not mentioning what others do, I speak of my own trade; the bleachers are a race of people that never had any education, or very little, and they carry it on, and hand it down from father to son.

1171. You have Sunday schools there also?—Yes.

1172. And the present generation of bleachers follow the example of the past, and do not educate their children, or send them to a place of worship?—No, not about Bolton.

1173. *Chairman.*] But you are anxious that there should be an alteration in that bad system, which you describe as coming down from father to son, and to bring about that alteration you wish that the Legislature should interfere in the way you speak of?—That is just what I have come up here about.

1174. You

1174. You are sensible of the evil of the system you have been describing, and wish a remedy applied, is that so?—Yes; I want the system to be done away with, and commence with a fresh one.

1175. Mr. *Davison.*] In other words, you want legislation to make bad men good?—Yes.

1176. Mr. *Packe.*] Are the wages at the bleach-works paid by time or by the quantity of work that is done?—According to the quantity of work that is done.

1177. With children of all ages, is that invariable?—Yes; to pay them so much a hundred.

1178. And they are paid by day-work?—They are paid by day-work, but not in the bleaching department; there are other jobs, such as oiling and driving.

1179. But in the bleaching department none are paid by day-work?—Not that I know of.

1180. Not of any age?—Not that I know of.

1181. Mr. *Turner.*] You say that you sent a boy of yours between eight and nine years of age, against your own consent, to certain works, because the master wanted you to do so?—Yes; he asked the foreman for him; he did not ask me, he asked the foreman.

1182. You were unwilling to send him?—Yes; I told the foreman he was too young.

1183. But you consented against your will, because you were afraid that you yourself should be discharged if you did not send him?—Yes, I was afraid.

1184. You are an old, experienced man, you have been 52 years in the trade, and must be an experienced, good workman; were you not quite as independent as your master if you were discharged?—No.

1185. Could you not have obtained a good situation somewhere else?—No.

1186. Then you durst not stand upon your principle; namely, your objection to send so young a child, from fear of being discharged yourself?—I was getting too old to go to a fresh place then.

1187. You say you do not approve of a child being sent to labour before it is 12 years of age?—That is the age I should like them to be.

1188. Then, in case such a law was passed, would it not be desirable, in your opinion, as representing the workpeople, that a law should also be passed to compel the parents to educate their children?—Yes; I should like them to send them to school.

1189. At the parents' expense?—Yes, to be sure.

1190. Then you would be willing, and you think that the workpeople would be willing, to be compelled to educate their children before they are allowed to go to work?—Yes; I should like all parents to educate their children.

1191. And to be compelled to do so?—Up to 12 years of age; when a boy goes at eight or nine he is not strong enough for his work.

1192. Mr. *Kirk.*] You say you were turned off on account of your age?—Yes; they said I was too old for the work.

1193. How came they to object to your age when you were paid by the piece?—I do not know that.

1194. I can understand an objection to a person's age if he was employed by the day, but I do not understand it if he is paid by the piece?—Young Mr. Henry told me I was getting too old for their work, and I should have to find a fresh situation of some sort, or else do without. I said, I was not too old when your father engaged me at first.

1195. Mr. *Wise.*] Do the operatives in your district generally belong to provident societies, or clubs or friendly societies; do they make any provision for old age?—No master ever tells them of that, that I know of.

1196. I am asking you about the operatives of your own neighbourhood, whether they belong to friendly societies, generally, and whether they subscribe towards a provision for old age?—No, I never heard tell of any thing of the sort.

1197. You do not pay so much a week for that purpose?—No.

1198. Mr. *Turner.*] Is that the fault of the master or of the men?—I never heard any master tell of it.

1199. But whose fault is it, the masters' or the men's?—I never heard tell of it between master and men.

1200. The workmen do not make a provision for old age, or sickness, or casualties?—No.

1201. Do you think that the men are blameable for neglecting that duty?—It would be better if they were to make some sort of arrangement for old age.

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1202. Mr. *Davison*.] It would be better if the masters did that, would not it, in your opinion?—The masters send them to the workhouse when they cannot work any longer.

1203. Mr. *Wise*.] You mean to say that, in your district, there are no clubs or friendly societies, or any establishments where you pay so much a week, so that if you are sick or get old you have a little weekly payment?—Yes, when they are sick, or out of work, but nothing for old age.

1204. But there are friendly societies or clubs in the neighbourhood?—I do not know of any where I come from. I never heard tell of a club, or anything, for old age.

1205. Mr. *Davison*.] Are there any clubs for other purposes?—Yes; there are clubs if they get lame, or if they are sick, but nothing for old age.

1206. Are there any clubs there for the purpose of opposing the masters?—No.

1207. Or for the purpose of supporting the workmen in any way?—No; I do not know of any.

1208. Viscount *Goderich*.] You do not mean to say that there are not sick clubs in Bolton?—No; but not for old age.

1209. Do the workmen in your trade subscribe to clubs of that kind?—They never lay themselves out for that kind of thing, whatever profession or branch they may belong to.

1210. Do people engaged in the bleaching-works subscribe to clubs of that kind?—Some of them.

1211. Mr. *Davison*.] Do you subscribe?—No; I am an Oddfellow, but not a subscriber for old age.

Mr. *Thomas Miller*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. Miller*.

1212. *Chairman*.] WHERE do you live?—At Bolton.

1213. Will you tell the Committee what your occupation is?—Yes; I have been connected with the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's for these last 24 years.

1214. Are you connected with that department now?—Not at present; but to last November.

1215. Are you engaged in any other department of the bleaching process now, or not?—Not at present. I have commenced business for myself in a small way, shop-keeping; I left in November last.

1216. Did you give evidence before Mr. Tremenheere two or three years ago?—No, I did not.

1217. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee generally what your views are on the subject of the hours of work in the bleaching business?—My views are for restricting the hours of labour of young persons.

1218. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what your reasons are for coming to that opinion?—Because the hours are too long for females and young persons, and even old persons, to work.

1219. During the 20 years that you were in the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's, can you tell the Committee what were the severest hours for any time that you yourself observed?—We worked from all hours, from seven in the morning to 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, and even 2 o'clock in the morning; and I have worked longer than that myself, that was in the making-up and packing department, where I was engaged for the last four years.

1220. Does the observation apply to the finishing department?—To the making-up and packing department.

1221. Taking the finishing department, what are the longest hours that you remember in the finishing department?—I was connected with the beetling department at one time under Mr. Hardcastle for a great number of years; I have worked 36 hours at once, without any stoppage, but for meals.

1222. Were all those who were working that number of hours male adults, or were there women and young boys?—It was the case with all connected together.

1223. And the women and the children worked the same long hours on those occasions?—Yes.

1224. Was your observation at that time called to any bad effect from those long hours on the children and women?—There were no bad effects, but in the state of their health generally, after working a series of weeks, and perhaps months, they got quite done up, and fatigued.

1225. What

1225. What happened to them when they were in that state, were they forced to give up the work, or did it continue?—They were forced to give up through necessity; they were not fit to stand. I have seen them stop at home two or three days at once, and then come again after they got recruited.

1226. Are you aware of any whose health finally sunk altogether under those long hours, who either were obliged to give up the employment, or died in consequence?—I never knew any one to die, but to give up work in consequence of the long hours they had to labour.

1227. At what temperature were the rooms in which these long hours were worked?—The one where we worked was always a cool temperature, no stoves, plenty of open air certainly, but the long hours.

1228. Was the nature of the occupation such that the persons engaged during these long hours could sit down and rest themselves, or were they chiefly standing?—Occasionally they could sit down, at other times they could not, for hours together and days together; sometimes there might be a little slackness in the work coming forward, they might sit down then, but the general thing was to keep to it till one was done.

1229. What were the meal times during these long pushes?—Half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, half an hour for tea; the time was never certain when we were to go home at night.

1230. Can you tell us how young children were engaged in this department?—From all ages; I have seen them from 10, 11 and 12, but they are not quite so young now; I believe none are taken in now under 12 within this year or two.

1231. Does that observation apply to all the departments in Mr. Hardcastle's works, or only to those you have specified to the Committee?—I will not say all, only connected with the making-up and packing department that I was engaged in for the last four years.

1232. Take the finishing department; I think you were engaged in that before you were engaged in the packing department, were you not?—Yes, our set was not connected with the finishing department, goods come there finished to the makers-up; the finishing department was a different department.

1233. Then if I understand you you have no personal knowledge of the other departments?—Yes, I have a knowledge of what they call the beetling department.

1234. Are children and women employed in the beetling department?—Not so frequently, perhaps there might be one or two employed in ordinary operations not connected with the beetling, at least at Mr. Hardcastle's; I have seen women employed in the beetling department.

1235. Are the hours very long in the beetling department?—Yes, very long; that is a tedious process.

1236. What hours were the people generally employed shortly before you left Mr. Hardcastle's employment?—I have seen them very busy for four, five or six months at once, 13 or 18 months ago; we used to work when we were busy from all hours, very nearly from 7 in the morning up to 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 o'clock, and sometimes later than that.

1237. What opportunities of education would the children employed in the way you have described, have?—No opportunities at all for education, unless they had it before they came to the works.

1238. Is there any school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's establishment?—Yes, there is a school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's works.

1239. What class of children attend the school?—Principally the works children, before they come to work.

1240. How long has the school been established?—Perhaps a dozen years, I cannot say exactly to a year; but it has been established a number of years.

1241. And is it attended by children belonging to the works?—Yes, belonging to the parents at the works, and other children also; there is a schoolmaster attached to it.

1242. But I think I understood you to say, that no children actually engaged in the works attend the school?—No, they cannot attend while at their work; and when they are busy at work for months together they have no chance of attending the school.

1243. Are you able to tell the Committee at what ages in the various departments at Mr. Hardcastle's works the children commence to work?—Generally about 12 years of age, from 12 to 14.

1244. Then up to 12 the children have an opportunity of receiving education?—Yes, they have an opportunity up to that time.

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1245. Mr. *Davison.*] You were asked up to what age they attend?—They have an opportunity of going to school before they come to work.

1246. Do they commence at 12 to work, or 13, or what age?—Yes, 12 or 13; I have seen them younger.

1247. *Chairman.*] But at the present moment you think that is the age at which the children commence working in Mr. Hardcastle's mill?—Yes, I believe they have adopted the rule lately.

1248. Viscount *Goderich.*] Is that rule acted upon in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment alone, or generally in the bleaching-works in that neighbourhood?—It has lately been adopted at Mr. Hardcastle's.

1249. And not elsewhere?—I cannot speak for elsewhere.

1250. *Chairman.*] Do the parents show any anxiety to send their children to this school?—Yes, I think they generally do.

1251. Have they to pay?—Yes, they have to pay.

1252. So much per week, I suppose?—Yes.

1253. I think you began by saying, that you were in favour of legislative interference?—I should think it would be the best plan for the good of the trade that something should be done in it.

1254. Do you speak for the good of the masters, as well as the good of the workpeople and their children?—Yes.

1255. And are you of opinion from the experience you have had, that legislative interference restricting the hours of labour, and the age at which children should commence to work in the bleaching-works, would be beneficial, and not prejudicial to the interests even of the master?—Yes, there should be some regularity fixed in the hours of bleaching and finishing, that is my opinion.

1256. Has your attention been called to the provisions in the Bills that have been from time to time brought before Parliament with that object; are you aware at all of the nature of any Bill that has been brought before Parliament for the purpose of restricting the hours of labour in bleaching-works?—Yes.

1257. Were you in favour of a provision for preventing children under the age of 11 from working in bleaching-works?—Yes, quite in favour of it; I think it is quite soon enough to send a child at 12 years of age to work.

1258. Then, passing on from children to women and young persons, how many hours in the day do you think it would be proper that they should labour in those bleaching-works?—I should think 10 hours a day would be quite sufficient for children and young persons.

1259. The actual time now fixed by law for the factories is 10 hours and a half, is it not?—Yes; 10 hours and a half, or 60 hours a week.

1260. Therefore, I understand you to be in favour of placing the same limit on the hours of labour in the bleaching-works for women and young persons as is already placed by law on the labour of similar classes in factories and mills; is that the evidence you wish to give?—Yes, I am quite in favour of that.

1261. Have you had an opportunity of witnessing the effects of the Factory Acts on the moral, social and physical condition of the factory people in Bolton?—No; I have had very little acquaintance with factory people; only what I have heard, and the effect which it has produced on the young people at the working mills.

1262. What effect have you heard of or witnessed?—Of attending schools and libraries at night; those connected with the bleaching and finishing have no opportunity whatever of attending at a school or going into a library for a week.

1263. During the 20 years you were employed in Mr. Hardcastle's bleaching-works, was it the habit of your fellow-workmen to apply themselves at all to libraries and mechanics' institutes, or any of those sort of institutions?—No; being wholly employed, we had no chance; there used to be a night school attached to the works.

1264. How was it attended?—When there was a slack time they used to attend to it, and when they were busy they had to go to give it over.

1265. So that there was no certainty?—No; there was no certainty.

1266. There was no regularity in the hours of attendance upon the institution?—No.

1267. Viscount *Goderich.*] Was that night school established by Mr. Hardcastle himself?—No, I think not, but I am not certain whether he has established one or not; there was at one time a school held in my own house, and a young man came teaching, and I even gave him the room free to come and teach in at night; when they had time they came, but with the irregularity of attending at the school many gave over.

1268. How was he paid for his trouble?—He was paid by the learners so much a night. The young man that taught belonged to the works.

1269. Was that since you left the works?—No.

1270. While you were working there, was it?—Yes, I dare say it was 10 or 12 years since.

1271. How long did that go on before he gave up?—It went on from time to time for a year or two.

1272. Mr. *Packe.*] You stated that there was an anxiety in Bolton, amongst the parents, to send their children to school?—Yes.

1273. Do you confine your answer to that to the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment, or generally to the people at Bolton?—I do not know as to that; I can speak for myself.

1274. Are you speaking of the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment, exclusively?—Yes.

1275. Not to the people in Bolton, generally?—No, I do not know anything of them.

1276. You speak of Mr. Hardcastle's establishment?—Yes.

1277. *Chairman.*] Are any of your own family engaged in any of the processes of the bleaching business?—Yes; my family has been all engaged at one time, and I have one engaged at Mr. Hardcastle's now.

1278. In what capacity?—In the making-up department.

1279. Can you tell us what are the hours of labour there at the present moment?—It is sometimes six, sometimes eight, and sometimes 10; I have seen her come at 10 at night, within the last month or six weeks.

1280. And at what time does she begin?—At seven o'clock in the morning; six o'clock is the hour stated, but it is always seven before they can all get gathered together and start.

1281. What is her age?—She was 24 years of age; she works in the making-up room.

1282. How old was she when she commenced working at Mr. Hardcastle's establishment?—Twelve years.

1283. Have you any other members of your family engaged in the bleaching business?—No; at present I have a son who is engaged in the making-up department at another works.

1284. Mr. *Packe.*] What age is he?—He is 27 years of age.

1285. Mr. *Davison.*] Your children are all educated, I take it for granted?—Yes, they are all educated.

1286. You are from Scotland, are you not?—Yes.

1287. Mr. *Kirk.*] What is your general mode of beetling?—There are different sorts of beetling different sorts of goods.

1288. Can you give the Committee any idea of what you mean by the word "beetling"?—It is a process of finishing goods; I may say that goods are sometimes put on in a wet state, and beetled a certain time.

1289. For how long at a time?—Sometimes an hour, sometimes half an hour, and sometimes longer, according to the condition of the goods, and many of the goods are beetled 20, 24 or 30 hours in different places, according to the style of work.

1290. Then the labour of attending this beetling is not continuous labour, you have a roller have you not?—Yes, there are two beams attached to each row of beetles.

1291. And one is filled while the other is emptied?—Yes.

1292. The labour is not continuous, is it?—The labour is not continuous altogether, but there is very little time to spare when there is a double row of beetles running on the same beam.

1293. *Chairman.*] You say that in your opinion the interests of the masters would not suffer from the application of legislative interference to the hours of labour in bleaching-works, I suppose you are aware that it has been stated that in many instances they would be unable to comply with the demands of the merchants with that limit so applied to their business?—Yes, I am aware of it.

1294. Can you give the Committee any opinion upon that point?—No; I think I cannot go so far; I would rather leave that alone.

Mr. *W. Mather.*

Mr. *Wright Mather*, called in; and Examined.

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1295. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—I am in the stove and drying room.

1296. How long have you been engaged in that department?—About 12 or 13 years, and in other places as well; I have been engaged at Mr. Bridson's about 18 years.

1297. And you are working there now?—Yes.

1298. Have you been engaged in different departments in Mr. Bridson's works?—Yes.

1299. I believe you gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere two or three years ago?—Yes.

1300. Have you seen any reason to alter any of the opinions that you gave, or the statements you made to Mr. Tremenheere?—No; I have not seen any alteration, only this Whitsuntide they have shifted machinery, and it will not be as hot now as it was then in the progressive room.

1301. I think, at that time you stated the heat to be as high as 150 degrees?—Yes.

1302. Now the heat is not so great?—It will not be so great now.

1303. Can you tell what has been the diminution of the heat; what is the heat now?—In summer in the split-room, it is from 100 to 130 degrees.

1304. Even now?—Yes.

1305. Do you go through that great heat for many hours together?—I am not in that department at present.

1306. But you have been?—I have been.

1307. How long were you in that department?—I dare say eight years, off and on.

1308. Will you tell the Committee for how many hours together you remember being in that room, where these processes were being carried on?—There is a place where they dry the fancy goods; you must be in all the time, sometimes; I have been in there 12 hours a day, and sometimes 16, when we are very busy.

1309. You yourself have been as long as 16 hours in a room, the temperature of which you described as being considerably above 150 degrees?—Yes.

1310. In your evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, I see you stated that it was during the middle of the day that the heat rose to 150 degrees?—In the progressive room.

1311. In the room you have been telling us of; you say yourself have been in that room for 16 hours together; what would be the greatest heat in that room?—The greatest would be about 130 degrees.

1312. Would that be for only a very short time during the day, or would that be the heat for a considerable number of hours together?—For a considerable number of hours together.

1313. How many persons might there be in the room with you at that time?—Three young women.

1314. Can you give the Committee their ages?—They change very often, and I could not pretend to give you their ages; sometimes I am working with one set, and sometimes I may be working with another set.

1315. What clothes would they have on while they were engaged in this room?—I did not see any difference made in their clothes.

1316. Did they bring extra clothing to put on when they went out?—Yes; when they went home.

1317. Is the work hard that they are engaged upon?—No, it is not very hard, although it is very hot.

1318. Are they able to lie down and rest at all during the occupation?—Some part of them loose their petticoats for about half an hour, and lie down in the night time; they never lie down in the day time.

1319. Were these young women in the habit of complaining of the severity of the work, and the great heat they were subject to?—Yes, they have complained many a time of its being so hot.

1320. Did your own health suffer at all when you were engaged in that way?—No, I had very good health.

1321. Mr. *Packe.*] You stated to Mr. Tremenheere that there were five boys working in that room?—In the progressive room.

1322. The heat of which I think you state was as much as 100 degrees?—From 100 to 150.

1323. And

1323. And that they were working as long as up to 18 hours a day?—Yes, they worked for 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 hours a day; just as the work was.

1324. But you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that it was as long as 18 hours a day?—Yes; they have worked as long as 18.

1325. In that temperature?—Yes.

1326. Mr. *Kirk.*] Often?—Yes.

1327. Mr. *Packe.*] What were the ages of those five boys?—There was one 10, another 11, and one 13.

1328. Then 10 was the youngest?—Yes.

1329. *Chairman.*] Is there any school attached to your employer's works?—Not that I am aware of.

1330. At what ages do the boys generally enter his employment?—The very lowest is 10 years of age that I have known employed.

1331. Have you had your attention called to any proposal for restricting the hours of labour in bleaching works?—Yes; I wanted 10 hours to the day, if we could get it.

1332. You are anxious that there should be a limit to the hours of labour?—Yes, I am anxious.

1333. Do you think that that is the wish generally of the working people engaged in those works?—Yes; I never heard any of the women or men say different, but what they would like it to be 10 hours to the day.

1334. Have you heard them canvass the question of wages at all?—No, I never heard anything about wages.

1335. But the people generally are in favour of their having their hours of labour shortened in the bleaching-works?—Yes.

1336. And you give that to the Committee as your opinion and wish?—Yes, I do.

1337. You have been engaged in these bleaching-works, I think you say, for 18 years?—For 18 years with Mr. Bridson.

1338. Mr. *Packe.*] Out of this 18 hours a day, what time is allowed for refreshment?—Half an hour to breakfast, an hour to dinner, and half an hour to tea.

1339. Two hours, then, out of the 18?—

1340. *Chairman.*] Have you thought at all of the effect that the shortening the hours of labour might have upon the interests of the masters?—No, I have had nothing at all to do with that; I was not aware of coming up here until they sent for me.

1341. Had any alterations taken place during the last year or two in any of the processes in Mr. Bridson's work?—Yes.

1342. Will you state to the Committee what those alterations have been?—They have machines for bleaching.

1343. They have introduced the machines?—Yes.

1344. For what processes?—There are four machines, and there are eight or nine crofters for bleaching petticoats.

1345. What was the effect on the labour of the persons employed in this process before the introduction of machines?—They employed men and young lads.

1346. Who do they employ now?—They employ men, and there are about eight in that place; there are now about eight men and three lads at the machines.

1347. Of what ages would those lads be?—Thirteen years of age; they do not make very long hours with them.

1348. What number of hours are they generally employed at these machines?—It may be about 12 or 13 hours.

1349. Do you mean exclusive of meal-times?—Yes, they have meal-times.

1350. That is to say, the working hours, besides an hour and a half or two hours for meals?—Yes; and a little time between, while they are waiting for the cloth to be ready.

1351. Are the bleaching-works in the town of Bolton or in the neighbourhood?—In Bolton.

1352. You have said there is no school attached to the works; is there any school within reach?—About a quarter of a mile off there is one.

1353. Do any of the lads employed in these works attend school there at all?—I do not know of any; they certainly attend upon a Sunday.

1354. Speaking generally, are the young persons employed in these works tolerably well educated or able to read?—Some of them are, and some of them

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are not; I went to school when I was eight years of age, but I have forgotten it all.

1355. After eight, you never went again?—No; I went on a Sunday.

1356. Did you enter those works yourself when you was eight years of age?—Yes, eight or nine.

1357. And after that you had no further opportunity of receiving any education?—Except on Sunday. When I was working night and day I did not like to begin one week, and then never go the week after; so that kept me away.

1358. You thought it was not worth while?—There is a week at night and a week at day, and I did not like to start for a week at day, because I could not go regularly.

1359. In those days were there many children as young as yourself in those works?—Yes, there were a good many children.

1360. But I think I have understood you to say that now they are not taken in so young, generally?—No, not so young as they were.

1361. Mr. *Turner.*] Generally speaking, I suppose it is the wish of the working classes that you associate with the bleaching operatives to have the same hours of labour adopted in the bleaching-works that are now adopted in mills and factories?—Yes.

1362. Do you think that that would be beneficial to the working people?—Yes.

1363. You have no opinion to give, I think, as I understand you to say, as to how it would affect the interests of the masters, and of the trade generally?—No; I was not aware of coming up here.

1364. Then you have no opinion to give as to how far these restrictions placed upon English bleachers, there not being the same restrictions placed upon bleachers in foreign countries, would operate to the prejudice of the English bleachers?—I am not aware of anything of that kind.

1365. You have said that you would like the same hours of labour that are adopted in factories to be also adopted in the bleaching-works?—Yes.

1366. And that all the people in the bleaching-works would prefer it?—Yes.

1367. Have you ever heard of an instance where women or young persons employed in bleaching-works have left their employment in consequence of the long hours, to avail themselves of the shorter hours that prevail in factories?—Yes; there have been persons left there and gone to the factories.

1368. Is that a very frequent occurrence?—No, I do not know that it is; some leave and go to shops.

1369. Have you heard many instances of it?—No, not many.

1370. It is not generally the case?—No; there are some few who go to the factories.

1371. And yet if they should leave their situations in the bleaching-works in consequence of objecting to the long hours which are sometimes adopted there, they are not at all unfit to go into mills, and therefore might avail themselves of the alternative?—Sometimes when they leave there they go into service.

1372. But not often into mills?—No, not often into mills.

1373. Then the workpeople do not seem to think it a desirable change on their part to leave the bleaching-works and go into mills?—No, they do not.

1374. How do you account for that, if the hours in mills are so much more favourable to their interests?—They think it is a little lowering to them to go into a mill.

1375. Then it is rather a superiority of tone of feeling adopted amongst the bleaching operatives?—Yes; when a person has been brought up in a place he does not like to shift.

1376. He thinks that it would be a degradation to go into a mill?—Yes.

1377. Then, we are to infer, I suppose, that they are considered, on the whole, a more respectable class of people, and a higher grade of calling than the mill-hands?—I think so.

1378. Then it would not be a change for the better to be turned into factories?—It would be better if we had factory hours.

1379. But about the adoption of those hours upon the interests of trade, as a trade, you do not give any opinion?—No.

1380. Merely that it would be better to work shorter hours than longer?—Yes.

1381. Mr. *Packe.*] Is it not from being brought up at the bleaching-works and being accustomed to them, that they do not like to leave them and go to another place?—It is from being accustomed to it; they do not like to shift to another work.

Mr. *W. Mather.*
12 June 1857.

Martis, 16° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Butt.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Clark.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Turner.
Viscount Goderich.	Mr. Wise.

ISAAC BUTT, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Rev. *William Milton*, called in; and Examined.

1382. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Clergyman?—I am.

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1383. Of the Established Church?—I am.

1384. Where do you now live?—At the vicarage, Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire; I am curate of the parish.

1385. How long have you been there?—Three years this month.

1386. Where was your place before that?—Some years ago I was in Lancashire.

1387. How long ago is it since you were in Lancashire?—It is seven years since I left the neighbourhood of Bolton.

1388. Had you a pastoral charge there?—I was incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell.

1389. How far is that from Bolton?—Two miles, or a mile and a half.

1390. Were there any bleaching-works in your parish?—There were large bleaching-works.

1391. Can you tell us how many?—There was only one bleaching firm; they had large works throughout the parish.

1392. Who were the proprietors of that?—Mr. John Horrocks Ainsworth.

1393. Can you tell us about how many men were generally employed in these works?—I am not able to say that.

1394. Were any of your congregation workers in those works?—The chief part.

1395. Were you acquainted with the hours of work in these works?—Yes; they constantly came before me.

1396. State to the Committee what the usual hours of work were?—The hours of work varied perpetually for different sets; and for the same sets at different times; they worked very irregularly, sometimes very slack, little or nothing to do; at other times there was great pressure, and the hours were very severe. The cases that I particularly noticed were those of young children and women, in which a set of young persons of the ages from 9 to 19, 20 and 22 worked, as an ordinary thing, from 6 in the morning to 12 at night; that was varied on the Friday, in which, beginning on Friday morning, they worked all Friday night, and down to tea-time, which was about five or six, on the Saturday evening, by which they worked about 107 hours in the week, deducting 12 hours for meals; leaving a gross amount of 95 hours in the week.

1397. Did that frequently occur?—That was, with some sets, the constant work; I have known one case in which a young woman suffered from it, which caused me to investigate the case, and she, I know, had been working at that rate for three weeks constantly.

1398. What was the name of the person?—Elizabeth Greenhalgh.

1399. Mr. *Davison.*] About what age was she?—She was, I think, 26.

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1400. *Chairman.*] Will you just state the particulars of that case?—The particulars of that case were, that she was ill on the Sunday, and off her work on Monday; a message was sent, that if she did not come on Tuesday she need not come at all; she went very ill on Tuesday, and her mother went to ask leave that she might come home at nine o'clock that night, she having gone at six o'clock in the morning; that was refused; it was represented that she was unwell; the overlooker said she must work it off; she went on for a day or two longer; she was then obliged to give it up; she was unable to work at all; the medical man said she might have recovered her health if she worked from six in the morning to six in the evening, and took her regular meals; but her constitution suffered so much that she never recovered; she died under my ministration.

1401. How long ago is that?—That was in 1849; she died in 1850.

1402. Do you recollect any other particular instance of overwork?—I asked her the longest time she ever worked at a stretch, and she said, "three nights and two days;" being about 60 hours, in which she never left the works, and never paused, except a short time for meals.

1403. Can you tell the Committee what ages girls generally begin to work at?—They work as young as nine or ten; I think nine and ten, to eleven.

1404. Are you able to say whether girls of that very young age work the same number of hours?—They work the same hours; a set must work together.

1405. Can you give us any idea of the number of women who might have been employed in these bleaching-works in your parish?—My parish is a part cut out of the large parish of St. Peter's, Halliwell, but the works were throughout in one hand; the whole of Halliwell bleaching-works are in the hands of one firm; I think the number there would amount to 600 or 700 women and children, as far as I remember now.

1406. Can you give the Committee any information as to the age at which boys began to work?—They worked, I think, from nine to ten.

1407. And were they working the same hours?—Yes; they must stand with their set.

1408. Had you any opportunity of observing the effects of those long hours on the people?—Yes.

1409. Will you give your opinion as to the effect on their health?—It struck me that it was injuring their health very seriously; that they prematurely grew old, and, except the strong ones, the others could not stand it; many of them died. It seemed to me that there were some cases in which their illness might be traced directly to the overwork. There was one case, that of the sister of the woman I have mentioned; she was a girl of 18, working the same lengthened hours; she came home at two in the morning very ill, she was in fits at four the same morning, which fits never left her, and she died some little time afterwards.

1410. Did you attribute that to the overwork?—I attributed that to the overwork.

1411. Can you give us any information from your observation of the moral effects of these long hours?—The moral effects are very bad, as you will easily perceive, when I state to you that in these sets of young men and young women, when the work is pressing, they lie down together in one room; one part of the room is for their sleeping; no distinction is made, I believe, between them; and that must of course be very injurious.

1412. Do you mean that there was a room set apart for the purpose?—No; I am speaking of their work-room; all the rest they had was to lie down in their work-room.

1413. Independent of that, what was your observation of the effect upon their physical and moral condition?—They were denied all those opportunities which they otherwise might have availed themselves of, and which I have found in factories in other parts of my cure have been of great benefit to young persons who have been released from their work at certain hours.

1414. Were the hours such as to prevent their attending to your religious ministrations?—They had to work constantly throughout the week; and frequently on the Sunday they told me that they were so wearied that they could not get up to their school or their church on Sunday morning; that kept them away in many cases.

1415. And probably that interfered with their education?—They were taken away from school very young, and never had a chance afterwards. I commenced

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an evening class in the week for the young men, and when work was rather slack I got a good number of them to attend, but when a pressure came they were broken up, and perhaps never came back again.

1416. You did not find that they returned when the pressure ended?—The work had to be begun over again, and presented great difficulties; one very injurious effect was, that the work was so fitful; at times they were very busy, and at times they were idle, and that for days, when they would lounge about the streets, having nothing to do, playing as they called it.

1417. Are you aware of any efforts having been made by their masters to provide them with churches and schools?—Yes, churches and schools had been built in the parish by the masters in many instances, and are doing a great deal of good. The church of which I was incumbent was built by the master of the works.

1418. By Mr. Ainsworth?—Mr. Ainsworth; he also built large schools, which are also carrying on a great work.

1419. Had you ever occasion publicly to speak on the subject of these long hours?—Yes, I spoke of them at Bolton, at a meeting about the Ten Hours Factory Bill.

1420. Have you a copy of the observations which you made on that occasion?—I have. (*The Witness handed it in.*)

1421. Had you ever occasion to allude to it in your sermons?—Yes, I have alluded to the subject in my sermons.

1422. Where was that?—At Halliwell.

1423. Do you know of any of the workpeople having been withdrawn from your church in consequence of that sermon?—Yes, they were forbidden to attend the church.

1424. Will you mention the facts connected with the workmen being forbidden to attend your church?—Yes, a feeling of hostility arose between the patron of the church and myself. I had spoken to him on the subject of his works, at one time; it was not well received, and other circumstances occurred which produced an unpleasantness of feeling, and after my speaking at Bolton on the subject he took very severe measures about it; he ordered me to leave my house, which I found was not the parsonage; it never had been made a parsonage; it had never been conveyed, therefore a writ of ejectment was served on me, and I was obliged to take lodgings; he forbade me to enter his schools at all, which schools had also never been conveyed, and he ordered the gas to be stopped.

1425. Do you know of the workpeople being prohibited from attending your church?—Yes, they were forbidden; they were ordered to be watched and reported if they attended; and in one case a father was sent for and told that he had authority over his son, who was only 20 years of age, and he was to prevent him from going to church, and if he did not, he and all his family would be dismissed.

1426. Did those men cease to go to church in consequence?—Some of them did.

1427. Can you mention one particular case?—No, I cannot follow that man in my mind now.

1428. All did not cease, we understand you?—All did not cease.

1429. Do you know of any of those who disobeyed those orders being dismissed?—My impression is that I do; but it is not so clear as to be able to fix it. I know that some left the works.

1430. Would you not think it probable, if that threat had been carried into execution, and the man had been dismissed, your attention would have been drawn to it, and you would have remembered it?—Yes.

1431. And you cannot say, sir?—My impression is that some were ordered to leave; but at the distance of seven years I cannot fix it.

1432. Would it not be a circumstance very likely to fix itself on your memory?—Yes; but, at the same time, it is so serious a charge that, without being very clear upon the subject, I do not like to make it.

1433. Then you do not think yourself in such a position as to be able to make the sort to such a charge against Mr. Ainsworth?—No.

1434. Then would you not think it fair to conclude that there is no charge of the sort to make?—It is not in evidence.

1435. When these children were taken away very young from school, and sent at this very early age to work these long hours, would you not consider that a breach of parental duty?—Certainly.

1436. Had you an opportunity of ascertaining, in your pastoral ministrations,

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why the parents did that?—The reason is clear; they wanted the immediate proceeds of their children's labour, and if they did not go young they probably would not go at all.

1437. Did that result from any pressure put upon the parents by the masters, or was it the fault of the parents?—It must be placed to the fault of the parents, they being desirous to obtain the wages.

1438. Did you ever know or hear of a case, in which a master compelled a workman to send his child to work at an early age?—No, I have no knowledge of that myself.

1439. Then are we to understand that it would have been in the power of the parents themselves completely to prevent their children from attending at all?—Yes, I suppose it would.

1440. But if they sent them at all could they prevent them working these long hours?—No.

1441. There is that coercion, that if they work at all, they must work these long hours?—They must work with their set.

1442. Previous to leaving Lancashire, did you perceive any improvement in the shortness of the hours of work?—No, not at all.

1443. You saw no amelioration or change whatever?—No, none at all.

1444. Mr. *Cheetham.*] How long is it since you left?—Seven years in September.

1445. How long were you there?—I was there three years and a half.

1446. Is it seven years since you left?—Yes.

1447. Then your observations refer to what occurred seven years ago?—Yes.

1448. Have you any knowledge of the period between that time and this?—Not of my own knowledge; I have information, but not of my own knowledge.

1449. Mr. *Kirk.*] Previous to your making these observations in your sermons as to the long hours of work of these operatives, was there any direction from the patron to the workmen, to attend your church?—There had been when first the church was opened; the people were desired to attend the church, as I understood.

1450. *Chairman.*] Was your church endowed by Mr. Ainsworth?—Yes.

1451. So that the incumbent was paid by him?—There was an endowment of 1,000 *l.*

1452. Mr. *Turner.*] You are well acquainted with the family of the Greenhalghs I suppose?—Yes.

1453. Elizabeth was the daughter who died, I think?—Both died.

1454. Were they a healthy family?—I should say they were.

1455. Not afflicted with scrofula?—I am not aware that they were affected with scrofula.

1456. I am not asking these questions without good grounds for so doing; they were not afflicted with scrofula and consumption?—I am not aware of it; the father is a hale old man, and is living still.

1457. Their father gives a very different account, and the medical man; were they not of a delicate constitution?—I should say they were of an ordinary healthy constitution.

1458. The younger daughter, Elizabeth, I believe, never was well after her confinement?—She has worked for 18 hours a day for years after her confinement.

1459. The other one was called Mary Jane, I believe; had she once brain fever?—She had fits after coming home from work.

1460. Do you think that they were brought about by the hard work?—I am sure they were not obviated or decreased by it.

1461. You were the clergyman at St. Peter's, were you not?—At St. Paul's.

1462. That church was built by Mr. Ainsworth?—It was.

1463. Has not Mr. Ainsworth also built another church, St. Peter's?—He was joint founder of St. Peter's.

1464. And also has built schools?—Not belonging to St. Peter's.

1465. But he has built schools in Halliwell for the benefit of the people?—Yes.

1466. Has he not the character generally of a very enlightened and benevolent man?—He has done a great deal in building schools.

1467. Has he not done more than any other person in the neighbourhood for the benefit of his workpeople?—I cannot say that; as I said before, he has built a church and schools, and done a good deal for the benefit of his people.

1468. What

1468. What was the origin of your quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth?—The first was having to speak to him as to some rather unbecoming conduct in church.

1469. Of Mr. Ainsworth himself?—Yes, on the part of Mr. John Horrocks Ainsworth himself. If the Committee wish to know the circumstances I can tell them.

1470. Then the origin of your quarrel was not in consequence of the workpeople and the long hours, it was something personal to himself?—Yes, it was, the year before; that was reconciled, and we were friends for a year afterwards.

1471. Did not Mr. Ainsworth complain of some irregularity in your manner of performing the service?—I believe there was a question between two collects, which should be read first and which second; Mr. Ainsworth wished to interfere, and I would not accede to it.

1472. And in consequence of that, Mr. Ainsworth wished you to leave?—He often wished me to leave; he often sent messages to that effect.

1473. And you were on very bad terms?—We were.

1474. You preached very violent sermons against Mr. Ainsworth, and afterwards published it in the newspapers?—I wrote to the newspapers.

1475. And in consequence of that, Mr. Ainsworth directed his workpeople, I think, not to frequent your church?—I believe so.

1476. But the origin of the quarrel was not in consequence of your preaching about the long hours, it arose from another cause?—Before this quarrel arose, I spoke to Mr. Ainsworth about the long hours, and he knows the motive of the quarrel as well as myself.

1477. But you did leave?—I did so.

1478. And you went afterwards to Ridgway, in Yorkshire?—In Derbyshire.

1479. You went to a church there, built by Mr. Sidney Herbert, I believe?—That was at Wilton.

1480. Did you leave that church very soon?—No; I was there not quite two years.

1481. Why did you leave that church?—The place did not agree with my health.

1482. There was not disapprobation of your conduct on the part of the incumbent or patron?—The patron never expressed anything of the sort to me. The terms on which I have the honour to be with him at present ——

1483. But you did leave?—I did leave, and took another curacy.

1484. *Chairman.*] As to your having been on bad terms with Mr. Ainsworth; were you on bad terms with him before you attacked the long hours of work?—Yes.

1485. For how long?—The first rupture I had with Mr. Ainsworth was a few months after my going there, about a year and a half before the period of which I am speaking, and then again in December 1849.

1486. Did you ever know any of these bleaching-works carried on on Sunday?—Never at Mr. Ainsworth's.

1487. Did you ever know it at any other place?—I have heard of it at other places.

1488. I have it in your own handwriting that the work has gone on on Sundays; I want to know whether that is correct?—I think you will find I state I was informed that it had done so, because I myself am not aware of it of my own knowledge.

1489. I see it is that you were told so; you had been informed of it, had you?—Yes, by the persons who worked there, and from them I knew it, though it did not come in my own immediate knowledge.

1490. Then do we understand that persons who have themselves worked on a Sunday, have given you that information?—They have.

1491. But it has never been the case at Mr. Ainsworth's, you say?—No.

1492. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I understand you to say that you remonstrated with Mr. Ainsworth upon the subject of these long hours?—Yes, I did.

1493. But you told the Committee first of all, that he directed the parents of the children to send them to the church and to the schools?—Yes; the parents were not compelled to do so.

1494. Did you ever remonstrate with the parents themselves upon the impropriety of their conduct in sending their children to work so young?—I am not aware that I ever did; I may probably have said to them, "Why do you send your boy away from the school to go to work so soon?" and the answer has been "We want the wages."

1495. According to your own statement, the parents being more to blame than

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the employers, do you not think it was your duty to have pointed out to those parents what their duty was in retaining their children at home?—I possibly have spoken to parents upon that subject, but perhaps it never had great weight; for the powerful argument of immediate pay would be stronger than any clergyman's remonstrance.

1496. As you thought it was your duty to make animadversions upon the employers, did you at the same time animadvert on the conduct of the parents in permitting their children to go to work so young?—No; I am not aware that I did.

1497. Were there any cotton mills in your district?—No; in the immediate neighbourhood there were, but not in my district itself.

1498. What distance might they be?—There was one a mile from the church.

1499. Has it been within your knowledge that any of these young children and women have left the bleaching-works and gone to the cotton mills, owing to these long hours of labour?—I cannot recall any instances of it.

1500. You did not know of any?—No; but they were at liberty to quit their employment, I presume.

1501. You are not aware that they went to the cotton mills, where they were restricted by Act of Parliament to shorter time of labour?—I am not aware of instances of that kind; there were changes continually.

1502. When the people made complaint to you about the long hours, did you ask them what wages they earned?—Yes, I did.

1503. Did you ascertain what wages were earned by a similar class of work-people at the cotton mills?—I knew that very well.

1504. Were they larger?—During the pressure of work at the bleaching-works they had more money than at the ordinary stated work of the factory.

1505. You have spoken of the inability of these young persons to attend your evening classes of the week-nights in consequence of these over hours, but you also said there was a good deal of irregular employment, and there were times when they had nothing to do?—That was so.

1506. Did they avail themselves of those leisure moments in order to attend to your instructions?—They did when I first began with the schools, but then it was broken off, and only a few returned; there was no certainty that they might be able to go for more than a week or a fortnight, and then be called away again to work.

1507. They did not return afterwards in order to make use of the advantages again?—Some did.

1508. But the greater proportion did not?—The exact proportion I cannot state.

1509. Mr. *Packe.*] After the direction of the patron to the operatives that they should attend your church, had you a large congregation?—Yes, very fair congregations.

1510. Did you see a considerable falling off after there was an expressed wish that they should not attend your church?—The church was nearly emptied; they tried to come, and some did come in disguise, and with borrowed clothes, in order to escape the watchers, who were set at the doors in order to watch them; there were persons placed there who had to report on Monday morning who the people were that had attended church.

1511. Mr. *Cobbett.*] I understand you to say, that your first difference with Mr. Ainsworth was with regard to your mode of performing your duties?—No, it was rather Mr. Ainsworth's own conduct in church, on one occasion.

1512. You had some little difference with him then?—Yes; and he then dismissed me.

1513. After that, you became reconciled again?—Yes.

1514. And remained with him?—Yes, for more than one year afterwards.

1515. Was it at the end of that year that you made some observation in your sermon about the long hours of work?—It was after that year.

1516. What was the general scope of your observations, with regard to the long hours?—I spoke with reference to the long hours chiefly at the meeting at Bolton, more than in the church.

1517. But you did allude to the subject in your sermon?—I stated that I thought they worked very long, and I hoped they would get some relief—such relief as other operatives enjoyed.

1518. Had

1518. Had you an opportunity of observing the factory operatives?—I had in Leeds, and in the neighbourhood of Bolton.

1519. Do you remember them before the Ten Hours Bill was passed in 1847, and after that time?—I had.

1520. Could you perceive any sensible difference in them after they were restricted to 10 hours a day?—Certainly.

1521. Do you know whether they were more in the habit of attending at the schools after the shortening of the hours of labour?—Yes.

1522. And were they better satisfied with their condition?—A great deal better satisfied.

1523. You had been in communication with them enough to satisfy yourself of that, had you?—Thoroughly.

1524. Did you observe whether they improved in their personal physical appearance, as to health?—My experience of that district before the passing of the Act was slight. I did not go into the north until 1846.

1525. The Ten Hours Act passed in 1847, did it not?—It did, and then the people seemed to improve in their moral and social condition generally.

1526. Do you know that they attended more to the schools, and to matters of education generally; had they better opportunity for that purpose after the passing of the Ten Hours Act?—Certainly.

1527. Had you conversation enough with them to know whether the young women did more needlework and household work after the limitation of the hours of labour than they did before?—They did more needlework and household work afterwards, certainly, than before.

1528. Did they get into the habit of making their own clothes afterwards?—Yes, they did.

1529. Do you remember such a thing as a bazaar at Bolton at which the work of the young factory people was exhibited and sold?—I do not recollect the circumstance.

1530. Mr. *Davison.*] I believe Mr. Ainsworth built the church of which you were the incumbent?—He did.

1531. And he also assisted in the building of another, did he not?—He did.

1532. And he also built the school-houses?—He did.

1533. Evidently for the education of the people in his employment?—Certainly.

1534. Do you consider that it is the first duty of a parent to educate his children?—One of the first duties.

1535. According to your present recollection, you never remonstrated with the people for their not doing so?—I occasionally spoke to them, and pleaded with them against sending their children so young into the works.

1536. And their answer was that they wanted money?—They wanted their wages; I find that pretty much the same throughout the country generally.

1537. It was before your personal quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth that these school-houses and churches were built?—Yes.

1538. At what time was it that you wrote to the newspapers, was it after your personal quarrel?—Yes, it was.

1539. Was it after that he was anxious to get rid of you?—Both before and after.

1540. He wanted to get rid of you before?—Yes.

1541. On what grounds?—Personal dislike, I presume.

1542. Had he personal dislike to you then: you had some misunderstanding relative to his demeanour in church?—That was on the former occasion.

1543. Then after that he wished to get rid of you?—Directly; he sent down a message that I was to leave the house.

1544. And upon that ground?—Yes, because I would not apologise to him.

1545. Was it subsequently to the quarrel that you wrote to the newspapers about him?—Yes; subsequently to the second quarrel.

1546. But I am speaking of the personal quarrel arising from your complaint of want of proper demeanour?—That was in the year 1848.

1547. Was it after that quarrel that you wrote to the newspapers against him?—Not immediately after.

1548. How long after was it?—A year and a quarter.

1549. What was that second quarrel about?—The second quarrel was in consequence of Mr. Ainsworth dictating to me how I was to perform the service in the church.

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1550. About the reading do you mean?—No, in what order I was to perform it.

1551. The second quarrel then was of a personal nature also?—Yes.

1552. It had no reference to the workpeople?—No.

1553. And then you wrote to the newspapers?—After the meeting at Bolton I wrote to the newspapers, in order to correct an inaccuracy in the report of that meeting.

1554. You complained of an inaccuracy in that report?—Yes.

1555. Was that the sole subject of your communications?—That was the groundwork of my communication.

1556. Was it the sole subject of your communication?—I entered into the whole subject of the meeting, and my statement there.

1557. You wrote to the newspapers complaining of the inaccuracy of the report of some public meeting?—Yes, that was my first communication to the newspaper, I wrote more than once.

1558. Did you write upon any other subject unconnected with that public meeting?—My letter is in print, I cannot recall all the subject.

1559. Did you ever write before?—No, I wrote no letter before that, that I remember; I wrote afterwards to correct an inaccurate account of the church services.

1560. You wrote upon that subject?—I wrote on that subject; when the workpeople were forbidden to attend the church, of course it produced a great commotion in the neighbourhood; people in Bolton were very indignant on the subject, and came over and attended in large numbers at my church; an account of it got into the newspapers which was inaccurate, and I wrote to correct it, and I gave an account of the origin of the quarrel.

1561. Was it a year and a half between the first and the second quarrel?—A year and a month.

1562. Did you ever send any letter to the newspapers, complaining of the conduct of the parents in not sending their children to school?—

1563. Lord *John Manners.*] Can you tell the Committee what amount of education the parents of these children generally had themselves received?—Very slight.

1564. Is it in your experience that those parents who had themselves received a very indifferent education cared very little about their children getting a better?—Very little indeed, if there be a profitable argument on the other side; otherwise, there are persons who had no education at all themselves, who are, in some cases, most anxious for their children to have education; but there is no argument against the argument of money.

1565. During the time that you were in this cure, did you ever communicate with your brother clergymen on the subject of these long hours at the bleaching-works?—Yes; I have communicated with them, and some have communicated with me upon the subject.

1566. Was the opinion which you expressed at that meeting, and which I understand you to repeat before this Committee, shared by your clerical brethren?—Yes.

1567. Or did you stand alone?—In opinion I was not alone; in action, perhaps, I was.

1568. You had means of satisfying yourself that the views you took of the injurious nature of these long hours upon the moral and physical condition of the young people in the bleaching-works, were shared generally by the clergymen of your neighbourhood?—It was; whether generally so I cannot say. Some wrote to me, agreeing with me, after my published statement on the subject.

1569. Mr. *Davison.*] With respect to the public meeting, of course that had no reference, nor did it owe its origin to any private misunderstanding with Mr. Ainsworth?—My object was to do good to the people.

1570. My question was with respect to your speech at the public meeting, and that had no reference whatever to your previous quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth?—Do you mean the motive of the speech?

1571. Yes?—It is very difficult to define motives.

1572. Would you have made that speech at the public meeting, do you think, if you had not had a previous misunderstanding with Mr. Ainsworth?—I think I should.

1573. Mr. *Turner.*] Does not Mr. Ainsworth bear in the neighbourhood the character of a very excellent man?—Of a very arbitrary man.

1574. But is he not very kind and benevolent to his poorer neighbours?—To all under him, as long as they are under, and will be under him; but if they oppose him, there is nothing that will hinder him from taking extreme steps.

1575. You say that on one occasion he misbehaved himself in the church, and by that means excited your anger?—Not my anger.

1576. Will you allow me to ask you what that circumstance was?—It was after the service was over; he would stop in the church and ask to have the organ played, and he would call out from one end of the church to the other to the organist to play this, that, and the other, which he liked; and as we walked home from church together, I said to him that I thought it was a bad example to set; he immediately left my arm (you are aware that he is blind), and was exceedingly angry. I said I was very sorry that I had said any thing to make him so angry, but he would not be appeased. On the Friday he sent a message to me, saying that he had waited at home all day on Thursday, expecting me to come and make an apology, and as I did not do so he ordered me to leave the house, and not to enter the schools; he ordered the supply of gas to be cut off, directed the servant who attended the church not to attend, and ordered the choir not to sing.

1577. My question only referred to the mode in which he misbehaved himself in the church; Mr. Ainsworth is a blind man, you say?—Yes.

1578. He built the church?—Yes.

1579. He is fond of music?—Yes.

1580. And he requested the organist to play something in church after the service was over?—Yes.

1581. Was that the ground of the misunderstanding?—Not in the way in which you put it, but the way in which he called from one end of the church to the other, and the manner in which he behaved was, as I thought, unseemly.

1582. *Chairman.*] Probably the real cause of the quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth was that he thought he was master of the church, and you thought you were?—Mr. Ainsworth thought he was my rector.

1583. Probably there were faults on both sides?—Most likely; but allow me to say that I do not think I was in fault in speaking as I did on that subject.

1584. I believe there was a quarrel even on such a subject as this; whether you were to read the collect on Advent Sunday first or last?—Yes.

1585. And Mr. Ainsworth wished you to do it as he desired?—Yes, and selected subjects for me to preach on, and sent me a doxology.

1586. You did not like to submit to that?—Not at all.

1587. Whatever were your motives, or whatever was the difference between you and Mr. Ainsworth, I presume it did not influence you to say anything that you were not sure was true?—No.

1588. And of course, whether you quarrelled with Mr. Ainsworth or not, does not alter the fact as to the long hours of work?—No.

1589. Mr. *Davison.*] Did it influence you in saying anything that was sharp towards him?—Probably it did.

1590. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I understand you to say that there were no cotton factories within a mile of your district?—There were within a mile, outside of the district, but none in the district; there was one cotton work out of employ at the time; I do not think it was in employ while I was there.

1591. And yet you have been giving evidence as to the state and condition of the operatives employed in the mills?—Because many of them lived in my parish.

1592. Was the number large who were so employed in the mills?—Yes, considerable.

1593. You entered the parish in 1846, I believe?—In 1848.

1594. You then had no previous knowledge of the condition of these people?—My knowledge was gained in Leeds, where I was before that.

1595. I thought you had no knowledge of the population near Bolton?—Nor had I before 1848.

1596. Yet you have been giving evidence as to the difference between the period before and after the operation of the Ten Hours Act?—I was speaking then of Leeds, nothing was said about Bolton.

1597. I understood your remarks to apply to this neighbourhood?—They will apply to this neighbourhood, because I can compare that which I saw at Leeds with the state of things which I saw in Lancashire.

 1598. How

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1598. How can you speak to the state of things in a district of which you had no previous knowledge?—I had a knowledge of the factory people in one place, and they are much the same; the evidence I gave was comparing the people at Leeds before and after the passing of the Act.

1599. Lord *John Manners.*] I understand you to say, that whatever your differences with Mr. Ainsworth might be, you give him credit for being a humane and well-disposed employer of labour?—Most anxious to improve the condition of his people.

1600. Then, in any communication which you made as to the over hours of work in his bleaching-works, you did not single him out for especial animadversion; but you spoke against the system?—Against the system; and that system is seen most favourably in Mr. Ainsworth's works, because the limitation of Sunday-work is very strict there.

1601. Therefore you would, upon the whole, think that Mr. Ainsworth's works afforded rather a favourable than an unfavourable specimen of the management of bleaching-works in that part of the country?—I should.

1602. *Chairman.*] Would you consider that if under the dominion of a benevolent man, anxious to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of his people, these excessive long hours prevailed, it would be a very strong argument in favour of legislative interference?—Decidedly.

1603. And the higher the character of the man in whose establishment such a system prevailed, you would probably think the stronger would the argument become?—Yes; in other works they doubtless suffered more; at the same time there was one circumstance connected with the works at Halliwell, which was an additional hardship, and that is, the modified truck system, the keeping a shop which the people were compelled to attend; that does not occur in large towns, it only occurs in outlying districts.

Mr. *Stewart Fletcher,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *S. Fletcher.*

1604. *Chairman.*] YOU were examined, I think, by Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes.

1605. Where were you working at that time?—I was working for Mr. John Lancaster, at Salford.

1606. How old are you?—I am 31 years of age.

1607. I believe you have been working for about 19 years?—Yes.

1608. At what age did you begin?—I must have begun somewhere about the age of 12, though I cannot justly speak within six months or a year. I think I must have been somewhere about 12 years old when I first commenced to work for Messrs. Turner & Mallar, at Close, near Ratcliff. The firm is now Mallar and Son. I worked there for something like six or seven years.

1609. In what department were you employed?—In the making-up department always; I never worked in any other.

1610. Is calendering a part of making-up?—Calendering is the process before making-up.

1611. Have you ever worked at calendering?—I have done very little to it, but not much; it has always been considered that my place was in the making-up room.

1612. Where were you working at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's report?—I was working for Mr. John Lancaster, of Springfield End, near Salford.

1613. Do you know how many boys were employed in those works?—I should think something like 70 men and boys together; perhaps there might be from 18 to 20 boys and girls. There were not many girls, I think; only three. They did not employ girls in their works. I have not worked at bleaching-works; I have only worked at dye-works.

1614. Are you working there now?—No; I have left there about four months.

1615. What were your general hours of work during the two or three years that you were there?—They varied very much while I was there.

1616. You say you only worked in dye-works not in bleaching-works?—Yes; but bleaching and dyeing are connected.

1617. Was the place where you were working a bleaching establishment, or only a dyeing establishment?—It was considered a dyeing establishment, although they bleached a little.

1618. During the time you were there, what were the hours of work?—They varied very much; we very seldom gave over before six o'clock, and we were considered

considered very slack when we gave over at six or seven o'clock; our hours were from six o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night, with half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner.

1619. During times of pressure, did you work later?—We then worked until 11 o'clock at night, frequently.

1620. Did that continue for many days successively?—Yes, for many months.

1621. Do you mean that it continued every day for more than a month; that you worked from six o'clock in the morning until 11 o'clock at night?—Yes.

1622. Did you ever go beyond that, 11 o'clock at night?—Yes; I have worked till 12 o'clock.

1623. Have you ever worked all night?—I never worked all night there, but I have gone at 12 o'clock at night to commence work.

1624. Did you ever know any of the people working with you suffer in their health from so long hours of work?—Yes; I have known a great deal of it from over fatigue at work.

1625. Did your own health ever suffer?—I do not know that it did at that time, because I had got stronger and healthier; but I am inclined to think that it had suffered previously, and perhaps it might suffer a little then, because I was none of the stoutest.

1626. In point of fact, did you find these long hours injuring you; were you tired when your work was over?—Yes, I was very tired and fatigued, and the boys especially were very tired; indeed, they were often wishing for a Ten Hours Bill to pass.

1627. Among those who were working with you, was the feeling generally in favour of a Ten Hours Bill?—Yes, it was the general feeling with their people; and to prove it, they paid their pence every week in order to support the delegates to keep the agitation alive; because we were all workmen, and we could not go from one place to another at our own expense constantly; and lads and men as well put their pence together, in order that we might obtain it.

1628. Did you mention to Mr. Tremenheere an instance of your falling asleep in walking home?—Yes, but that was not at that place; that was previously.

1629. But you did fall asleep as you were walking home?—Yes; I had worked all night that night, and I had worked all night many a time there; I knew a great many once that were very ill through it as well as myself; in fact, I was very ill a time or two when I was there; I worked there nearly seven years.

1630. When I asked you if your health had suffered from this overwork, I did not mean to confine you to that one place?—I understood you to confine it to that.

1631. In any place has your health suffered?—I was ill many a time through it; at Mr. John William Smith's we worked till 10 or 11 at night frequently; at times all night, and at it again in the morning.

1632. Did these long hours last successively for any length of time?—Yes, they lasted as long as the work lasted; it would last over a month together working till 12 o'clock at night.

1633. Not till 12 o'clock every night?—Sometimes we gave over at nine o'clock; but if we did give over as soon as that, we considered we had done very soon indeed, and would be very glad; the first place I was speaking of we were so worked; at Manchester I recollect working from five o'clock in the morning till 11 o'clock at night, as long as six months together; and we were told by the manager that they were getting rather slack, and we must begin to give over at 10 o'clock, so we reduced the hours, from five o'clock till 10.

1634. And that was when the work was getting slack?—Yes, we worked from five o'clock till 10 then.

1635. Did you, at any place where you were employed, know women to work that number of hours?—Yes, they all worked on alike; one party did not give over before the other, and the young people had to work as long as the older ones.

1636. Then, you have known boys working for those hours?—Yes.

1637. At what ages?—Varying from 10 to 20.

1638. Do you mean boys of 12 years of age working from six o'clock till 12?—Yes.

1639. That you have known to occur continuously for days?—Yes; it was a regular thing, and it is not in one dye-work alone, but it is so all through the trade where they dye calicoes; it is not so bad in other dye-works.

1640. In how many works have you been engaged altogether?—Perhaps at six altogether.

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1641. But in some not so long as in others?—I was six years at Mr. Croup's, and seven years at Mr. Smith's, and at Dewhurst's, in Salford, for nine months; they did not work so very late there; they tried to regulate themselves similar to the factories; they very seldom worked over time, unless they were obliged to.

1642. Is there a general rule there against working over time?—Yes; but it is one adopted by the masters in working, trying to act upon the factory principle.

1643. Do you know whether they are continuing to do that now?—Yes, they do it now.

1644. Among the parents of the children is there any objection to their working these long hours?—Yes; there must be an objection, because they know it is injurious.

1645. From what you have heard among them, do you think they object to the long hours?—Yes.

1646. Have you heard them complain of it?—Yes, many a one.

1647. Did you ever know of the case of a man forcing one of his workmen to send a child into the works of the master?—No, I do not know that there has been anything of that kind come to my knowledge, because I have always worked in districts where there has been more employment in factories and other trades as well, consequently we have not been so much under the masters; we have been at liberty to change our places.

1648. Lord *John Manners.*] I see that you have stated to Mr. Tremenheere that upon one occasion you had been ill for a month, owing to these long hours?—Yes.

1649. Were you attended by any medical gentleman?—Yes.

1650. Did he tell you that your illness was owing to these over hours?—No, he did not tell me so; but at that time I was working very late, and consequently I could attribute it to nothing else; I had been working late for a very considerable time, I was under Dr. Hall.

1651. Is he living in the same place still?—Yes, he is living in the same place, Salford.

1652. Mr. *Turner.*] At the places you have been working at, I think you say the children were chiefly 11 years of age and upwards, you have not mentioned one under that age?—No, they have not been very young where I have worked, although there are places in Manchester where they are taken younger.

1653. Are they very destitute of education, very ignorant?—They are very ignorant indeed.

1654. How do you account for that; if they only commence working about 11 years of age, do their parents neglect their education altogether?—Yes, I should say it must be their parents' neglect.

1655. Do you think it desirable that they should be educated before they go?—Yes, I think it desirable that they should be educated, but education has become a deal more popular now than it was, and perhaps they will be educated before that age, but it never has been so yet; they have been glad to catch a little education when they could; under the present system they cannot go to the night schools, and if they have not got educated before they commence working they have no chance afterwards; I have often commenced going to school myself, but never had the opportunity to continue at night.

1656. They are still taken at about the age of 11 at the present time, as far as your experience goes, are they?—Yes; they will not do for work under that age well, because they require them rather strong.

1657. They are now getting into a better state of education?—I should say they would be.

1658. But are they?—Around by Manchester I consider they are very ignorant indeed; I am speaking of the lads employed in those establishments.

1659. Even at the present time?—Yes, even at the present time.

1660. Then, of course their parents must neglect them?—It is evident they must do so.

1661. You have, yourself, been engaged from an early age, and you have felt very much fatigued by these long hours, of course?—Yes; I have gone to work in the morning, and when I have been going away I have scarcely been able to hold my eyes open, and I could hardly tell whether I had one leg before the other.

1662. You remained a considerable time in some places?—Yes.

1663. What age were you when you went to work at Mr. Dewhurst's?—I was grown up then; it was previously to my going to Mr. Lancaster's.

1664. They

1664. They worked regular hours there?—Yes.

1665. You remained only nine months there, and yet you remained seven years at a place where they worked these long hours; how was that?—They were considered busy at Dewhurst's if they worked from six o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening; and when they were slack they could not employ those hours with the men they had; and consequently I was discharged, in consequence of their being slack.

1666. Then you did not leave of your own accord?—No; they have sent for me twice since, but I have not been back yet.

1667. Where are you working now?—I am what they call jobbing, sometimes at one warehouse and sometimes at another, just where they want me; we have a room to meet in, and if they want a maker-up they send to this room for one; and if I am first on the list I go, and if another is first, he goes; they are obliged to have this room in order to accommodate the merchants, and those who want the making-up done in the warehouses.

1668. Do you prefer that irregular mode of working rather than having a settled employment?—At the time I left they were very busy at Lancaster's, working till half past 10 o'clock at night, consequently I would sooner sacrifice a little money which I had to do in leaving, and I went jobbing, sometimes at one place and sometimes at another.

1669. Is not the work very irregular at the warehouses?—Very irregular indeed; sometimes they are without wanting a job done for three months.

1670. It is not proposed, I think, to put the warehouses under the regulations of this Bill?—No, I think not; I cannot well see how they could do it.

1671. Will not a good deal of the work that must be done in a very short time be done at the large warehouses rather than at the finishing places?—Oh no, it will not; the finishers will not give it up.

1672. Is it not a fact, that at the very large warehouses in Manchester, such as Mr. Pender's, there is a regular set of makers-up and finishers, as much as in the bleaching and dyeing works?—They certainly have a number of finishers there.

1673. Is that system extending in the large warehouses?—I think it is; I believe several have commenced lately.

1674. Would the bleachers and finishers have a fair opportunity of contending with the large warehousemen if they were restricted in their labour, and the warehousemen were not restricted in theirs?—No, they would not; but if finishing is included in the Bill, as well as bleaching and dyeing, if it was a bleaching and dyeing and finishing Bill, then I think it would only be justice between the men and the master.

1675. You think it would be right?—Yes, I do.

1676. Therefore, wherever there is finishing going on in an establishment, you think that establishment should be included in this Bill?—Yes, that is my sincere impression respecting it.

1677. Where would you stop in the operation?—I would stop there.

1678. What would you consider included in a finishing and making-up establishment?—Where they keep calenderers, and are dyeing and bleaching; of course they would want making-up afterwards, and all the younger persons are chiefly employed in the making-up department, and the calendering.

1679. We have heard some very distressing stories of the way in which packers have been overworked at these bleaching-works?—You must mean makers-up, I think.

1680. No, I allude to packers, there was one very serious case mentioned?—There might perhaps be one in a bleaching-works, although they do not require very many in bleaching-works; it is chiefly in warehouses, and in warehouses they are nearly all men.

1681. Would you include all packers in the operation of this Bill?—Yes, I would include all packers at bleaching and dyeing-works and calender-works.

1682. But not in warehouses?—No.

1683. Why are the warehouses not to have the benefit of the Bill as well?—I have just told you that they are nearly all men who are employed in packing in Manchester in the warehouses. I do not think there is one out of every 20 who is under 18 years of age.

1684. In the making-up rooms connected with the packing rooms, are there no young persons employed?—Yes, but they are obliged to have helpers.

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1685. Can the packers continue their work if the making-up room ceases to work?—No.

1686. Then of course the packers must stop when the making-up room stops in the warehouse?—Yes, but if they employed so many more makers-up then they could keep the packers employed, if they thought proper they might engage as many more makers-up as would keep the packers employed every time they wanted them.

1687. Mr. *Kirk.*] Pray, is the employment so constant as that they can employ makers-up permanently?—Yes, they do do that at the places of which this gentleman has been speaking.

1688. They employ them permanently?—Yes.

1689. And you think they might double the number employed?—Yes.

1690. In order to keep the packers at later hours?—Yes, if they thought it would be to their interest to keep the packers later hours, but I do not think they would think so; I think they would arrange things so as to let them all go at once.

1691. What is the reason of keeping them these long hours?—Because there is work to do; as long as they have work to do they will do it, it is to their interest to do it.

1692. How? will they not pay the people for their over time?—Yes, but they must have an interest in it, or they would give it up altogether.

1693. If the employment is of a permanent character, how can there be any interest on the part of the master to keep the people over time?—If the master made 20 *l.* in one day, and if he had to pay his workmen for working the night following, and if they could do as much work in the night as they could do in the day, that would be another 20 *l.*; so that would make 40 *l.* instead of 20 *l.*

1694. Supposing he had no employment for them, what is to be done then; supposing a time came when he had no orders, does not that occur?—Of course it does.

1695. Have you not yourself stated that it does occur even with these exceedingly humane masters, who only employ their workpeople at factory hours; there are times when they have not employment for them?—Certainly.

1696. And do you mean to inform us that those are the only parties that have not permanent employ?—I do not exactly understand you.

1697. You have stated that the reason of your leaving, or being turned away from one place was, that they had not employment for you at that time?—Yes.

1698. Was not that likely to occur with others?—Yes.

1699. Does it not, in fact, occur with others?—It does occur with others; but at the same time, if anybody must work after six o'clock at night, this firm would be employed; they would not have to be playing then as they are now; at other places they are working night and day, when they are only working half time.

1700. But how is it that those people get employment by night and day, and others only get employment by day-time?—Perhaps they do it a little cheaper; the masters know that better than me.

1701. Do not you get more wages for over time, comparatively, than you do for ordinary day time?—Those who are paid by the piece get just the same, they get so much a hundred, and if they do it at night it makes no difference; they have so many shillings per hundred. But those who work by night in my branch of the business are paid extra; 5*d.* is the pay by day, and 6*d.* at night; and not only that, we have luncheon half-hours while working in the night, and we are paid for them, whereas, in the day-time, while having a half-hour for luncheon, we are not paid for it. So, as far as that goes, the master would not gain so much in the night as he would in the day; but this is only amongst the makers-up, not amongst the dyers.

1702. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You have told us that you have been employed in districts where there are other occupations than bleaching and dyeing?—Yes.

1703. And that in those districts parents object to these long hours in bleaching works; is that the case?—Yes.

1704. Can you give the Committee any instance in which a parent, objecting to these long hours, has found his child employment in other works?—No, I do not know that I can.

1705. So that whilst you have heard these objections, you do not know of any instance where that objection has been carried out?—No, because persons are apt to complain about a thing where they do not try to remedy it; that is very often the

the case. For instance, many hundreds of men have said to me, knowing that I have taken an interest in this cause, "How is the Ten Hours Bill going on?" and when I have told them, they have said, "Well, I wish they may get it," and when they have said that, that has been all they have done towards getting it.

1706. Is it within your knowledge that there is a difference of wages for the operatives in the bleaching-works where the long hours are carried out, and those of other occupations in the same district?—They, perhaps, might be rather better in our branch of the business.

1707. In the bleaching-works, you mean, though there are branches connected with it, that they are not so well paid as they are in the making-up department, and sometimes the parents will keep the lads in these establishments, thinking that they will get what they consider the best job, that is the making-up; if they can get them to be makers-up, then they consider that they are paid for letting them work over their strength previously, but if they should not get into that, then it is as much as they can do to draw a livelihood out of their labour?—

1708. In the bleaching-works, do you mean?—Yes.

1709. Do you mean to say that as regards the employment of these young children in these works, the wages are no better than they would be in the cotton mills that are restricted by Act of Parliament?—No, I do not think they are any better in the lower branches of the business.

1710. Then how do you explain the fact, that parents do not remove their children from these establishments, where there are these long hours, to places where the shorter hours are carried out?—If they get a child upon a job they do not often like shifting him; they think matters will be mending in a very short time, and they keep putting it off a little longer, and a little longer, until the boy or the girl has grown up, and then they do not like taking them away and putting them to another place to learn.

1711. Have you any opinion as to who is the guilty party, the employer who finds the labour, or the parent who permits his child to undertake it; where would you apportion the blame in this case?—I must blame the parent in that case; at the same time, if there was a law to prevent this it would be a great deal better. If there was anybody to blame we should try to remedy it; and I am convinced there is no other way of remedying it, except for the Government to say that they must not work these hours; because if they do not say that, the masters will say, "I have got some bleaching-work to do," and the men will say to themselves, "If I do not do it somebody else will," and they all run to it; they are all to blame, in my opinion.

1712. Then you would have a restriction not only between the parent and the child, but between a grown-up man and his employer; you would legislate for both alike?—I am not attempting anything of that sort; we are only asking for legislation with respect to the children; I say the young children and the women ought to be protected. Men ought to be able to protect themselves, in my opinion; and I think if they would all act as I have done they would do so.

1713. Then you do not advocate any legislation for men?—I do not.

1714. When you say women, do you mean grown-up women?—Yes; I mean the female class.

1715. Can you give me any instance of any woman leaving one of these bleaching-works and going to the cotton mills, or any other employment in that district?—No; I think it very rarely happens that they leave the bleaching-works to go to the factories.

1716. And yet they find fault with the long hours at the bleaching-works?—Yes.

1717. You speak of grown women, who are capable of acting on their own responsibility?—Yes.

1718. And you would have an Act of Parliament to force them to do that which they do not do at their own option; you, judging for them, would carry out an Act of Parliament to compel them to do that which they do not choose to do for themselves?—I do not propose to pass an Act of Parliament to drive them away from the bleaching-works to the factories; I only want them not to be allowed to work this unnecessary over time; I consider it is uncalled for, because I am of opinion that there are quite sufficient hands in the bleaching and dyeing-works to do the work in 10 hours and a half in the day.

1719. But you tell me that they can leave these bleaching-works, where there

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are these long hours, and seek a shorter employment in the cotton mills, and yet you tell me that they do not do that; is not that your answer?—Yes.

1720. So that you are of opinion that an Act of Parliament ought to be passed, in order to compel them to do that which they do not choose to do voluntarily; is not that the case?—You might as well say the same by me, because I would not work this over time at Mr. Lancaster's; I left because I would not do it; but it must be done while there is no law to prevent it; but I go away; where must I go to? Must I go to a factory? If I go to a factory, I shall have to learn the business: A woman would have to do that now, and what would she have to sacrifice in order to do it? She would have to go there, perhaps, for two or three months, in order to learn any particular branch, and would have to work all that time for nothing. It is a very unlikely thing that she would leave the bleaching-works in order to do that. Those instances that I have been speaking of are not as bad as might be enumerated. Those who have given evidence with respect to this Bill have always been very careful to put the hours short enough. I mean they have not exaggerated, fearing lest there should be some opposition, and fearing that they should try to disprove what they have said; we have always been very careful to under-rate it. If anybody could just come up and give a plain statement, the evidence would be fifty times better than it is. I have two letters in my pocket, that were given me only yesterday, relating to the time that they work at Robert Charlton & Sons, Blackfriars, Manchester, where, for about three months together, they have worked till nearly 12 o'clock for about three nights in the week; the man who has sent me this, put down just the time they worked.

1721. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I know that it happens at every dyeing establishment in Manchester, and every finishing establishment as well.

1722. Do you know it of your own knowledge?—Yes, I do.

1723. What is that place?—It is a finishing establishment, and they make up and pack as well.

1724. Are young persons employed there?—Yes, they are men and boys; I believe they have no females at all.

1725. What are the hours during which you say they worked?—They worked for about three months together till about 12 o'clock at night, for about three nights in the week, and Robert Charlton says in his evidence that they occasionally worked over time, and making it appear that they did not often do so. In those three months they only gave over six times at 8 o'clock; that was their time, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 8 at night; and in those three months they only gave over at 8 six times. This is the paper he sent me: "Over time from July 21st, 1856: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 8. July 28th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 5. August 4th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 8. August 11th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 5. August 18th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 9, Thursday 10, Friday 10, Saturday 4. August 25th: Monday, 12 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 5. September 1st: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 8. September 8th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 10, Friday 10, Saturday 5. September 15th: Monday, 12 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 10, Thursday 10, Friday 10, Saturday 4. September 22d: Monday, 8 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 10, Thursday 10, Friday 10, Saturday 4. September 29th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 10, Thursday 8, Friday 8, Saturday 5. October 6th: Monday, 8 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 9, Thursday 9, Friday 12, Saturday 4. October 13th: Monday, 8 o'clock at night, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 8, Thursday 10, Friday 12, Saturday 5. October 20th: Monday, 12 o'clock at night, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 12, Thursday 10, Friday 12, Saturday 5. October 27th: Monday, 10 o'clock at night, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 10, Thursday 12, Friday 12, Saturday 4."

1726. You say that they worked three days a week till 12 o'clock at night?—Yes.

1727. What

1727. What time did they work the other three days?—Some days they gave over at 10, and some days at 9.

1728. At night?—Yes, but on the average it amounts to 78 hours per week for that three months.

1729. Can you give me the proportion of boys that are working in this place?—I should say the boys would be something like one-third.

1730. You advocate the introduction of the finishing departments into the Bill?—Yes.

1731. Are you aware that in a previous Bill there was a clause to carry out legislation for the finishing departments?—Yes, I am aware of all that.

1732. Are you aware that that clause was afterwards withdrawn?—Yes.

1733. As to these two-thirds of men who are in this employment, is it not quite competent to them to leave it if they do not like these long hours?—Yes; but if they left, where must they go to? They would have to learn another business if they went elsewhere, and they would have nothing to do; and if they leave one place to go to another, it would be almost as bad.

1734. Supposing that the labour of this one-third of boys to whom you refer was restricted by legislation, what effect would that have on the labour of the men who worked with them; would it restrict their labour too?—It would have no need to do so, provided the master would obtain men; but I think he would not do it; I think he would still employ lads, and get more machinery, and regulate things according to law. For instance, when this agitation began there were very few masters who did not get more machinery. Mr. Lancaster, who I was working for, has doubled his machinery, and he can do as much work again as he could before this agitation commenced.

1735. Supposing that legislation was carried out to restrict the labour of these boys, would that restrict the labour of the men who labour along with them?—No; I cannot see how it would restrict them.

1736. They might go on with the long hours?—Yes; they could do the work the boys do.

1737. But the men might go on without the boys?—They could go on without the boys, but they would be obliged to do boys' work.

1738. Then they might labour without the boys?—Yes, the work could be done.

1739. *Chairman.*] This paper professes to give the hours of work from the 21st of July to the 27th of October 1856; to what works does this refer?—To Robert Charlton's, of Manchester.

1740. What is he?—A calenderer, finisher, and maker-up.

1741. Is he a bleacher?—No, they neither bleach nor dye; it is a large establishment, nearly as large as any in Manchester.

1742. Mr. *Davison.*] Were you ever in that employment?—No, I have never been employed there; I have worked not far from it.

1743. Have you ever been employed in that establishment yourself?—Never.

1744. Then your knowledge arises from this letter which has been sent to you, and that only?—No, not only that, but from seeing this man almost every week, and sometimes two or three days in the week.

1745. *Chairman.*] By whom was that document prepared?—By Thomas Bracken, a maker-up in that establishment.

1746. Then, except from inquiry, you have no personal knowledge of these hours, or of the truth of this document?—No; but I am inclined to believe that every letter of it is quite correct.

1747. Have you made such inquiries as to satisfy yourself that it is true?—Yes, I have, and I am quite satisfied that it is true; and if it was required, he could come and state that, and a great deal more.

1748. Mr. *Davison.*] When did you get that paper?—On Saturday.

1749. Was that the first time you had got it?—Yes.

1750. What time had you to make inquiries as to its truth between Saturday and this?—I have been in the habit of conversing with this man for something like three years, principally upon this subject. I happened to say to him that I was coming up here, and that I had not taken particular notice of the time that I had worked on the particular days. I knew that we had worked these unreasonable hours, and I knew that he had done the same. He said he had taken notice of the time that he had worked. I said, "I should be very much obliged to you for a list of the hours;" and he gave me this list, just as he had

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taken it down. It shows that they commenced work at eight in the morning, and it gives the time at which they gave over at night.

1751. Mr. *Clark.*] You say men could supply the place of boys; would not that end in breaking up the set, and ultimately turn the boys out of work?—No, it would not turn the boys out of work; they would never attempt to do anything of that sort. They could as easily give over two or three hours sooner of a night as work to the time they do. If one master cannot do all the work, there is another master slack who can do it.

1752. That is not exactly an answer to my question; you say that the men could work different hours from the boys; would not that end in the boys being thrown out of work entirely; do not the men and the boys work together a given number of hours?—Yes.

1753. If the boys work 10 hours, and the men work 16 hours, could the work of the boys be done between the 10 hours and the 16?—It could not be done so very well, unless they had boys over 18, provided 18 was to be the extent.

1754. *Chairman.*] Would it be possible to employ boys at all if the men work longer than the boys?—Oh yes, it would be possible.

1755. How?—Because they would have it arranged so that they could shift one boy from one job and shift him to another; to have them in different stages, they would have one quantity of boys perhaps of about 10 years of age, another quantity of about 12 years of age, and so on, and they keep going higher, two or three of an age together. Those lads could be shifted from different jobs, so that they could go on with certain portions of work, and a certain portion could be left over till next time, provided they were determined to make over time; but I think that would be unnecessary, except in a few instances.

1756. Would it be possible to carry out bleaching and dyeing work so as to have a number of boys employed who might stop at six o'clock, and keep the men working on for an hour or two longer?—Certainly, it would be possible.

1757. Mr. *Wise.*] It would be very easy to have a second set of boys, would it not?—Yes.

1758. Lord *John Manners.*] Have the answers which you have been lately giving to the Committee reference to this particular work; the statement which you have handed in has reference to bleaching and dyeing works, has it not?—The making-up has to be done whether the cloth has been bleached, dyed, or only finished; and these lads have to be employed in the making-up warehouse. The man that dyes finishes as well; consequently, if these finishing places were not to be restricted, that would not remedy the evil, because the employers have as many boys in proportion to men as they do in the dye-works, and it would leave a great many unprotected.

1759. Does your evidence bear upon the labour in the bleaching and dyeing-works, or upon those other warehouses that are neither bleaching nor dyeing-works?—My evidence applies to all three, bleaching, dyeing, and finishing.

1760. Mr. *Cheetham.*] In some of the bleaching-works they unite the whole of the three of those processes?—Yes, they do in some; and in others they only dye and finish, and in others they only finish.

1761. In Manchester there are a number of establishments who do the finishing and packing, are there not?—Yes.

1762. Are you of opinion, that if that portion of the trade in Manchester were left out of the Bill, that it would be unfair and unjust to the persons so employed to leave them out?—Yes, I am of opinion that it would be unfair, not only to the operatives themselves, but to the masters as well.

1763. So that in any attempt at legislation you would include all?—I would include bleaching and dyeing, and finishing, and anything connected with it.

1764. Wherever it might be found?—Yes; for instance, if that was not the case, the place that I have been speaking of, Mr. Lancaster's, where they do not dye, would be compelled to give over at six o'clock at night. There is another place, Messrs. Charlton's, where they do not dye, and because they do not dye they can work night and day; they finish and make-up as well.

1765. *Chairman.*] Do you consider there is the same necessity for restricting the hours of labour in finishing as there is in bleaching?—Yes, I do, as far as that extends.

1766. Is the temperature the same in the finishing-rooms?—Yes.

1767. Is there a very high temperature in the finishing work?—Yes, just the same as it is in dye-works, and hotter in a great many instances, because the calenderers

calenderers are under the making-up department, where they employ all the young persons.

1768. But in any establishment which does nothing but finish, is there any very high temperature in any of the rooms; I mean in a merely finishing department?—I am not acquainted with any that do only finish, because they all make-up.

1769. Taking finishing and making-up together, if there is any establishment that does nothing but finish and make-up, is there the same high temperature in any room connected with such establishment that we hear of in the bleaching and dyeing-works?—No; it is not requisite to have such a high temperature as they have in the bleaching-works in order to dry the pieces; we do not need that in the finishing.

1770. Then, so far as relates to the evil of keeping people together in a very high temperature, the same necessity would not apply to a finishing establishment as it would to a bleaching and dyeing works?—It is just as hot in the finishing-works in a finishing department as it is in a finishing department in a bleaching-works.

1771. But the same necessity would not exist, as far as the high temperature is concerned, for regulating the hours in a finishing-room as in a bleaching-room?—No, it would not.

1772. Mr. *Kirk.*] Are we to understand that in finishing you include calendering?—Yes; that is what I mean by finishing.

1773. First there is calendering?—Yes.

1774. And then making-up from the calendering?—Yes.

1775. And then there is packing the cloth in bales or boxes for export?—I do not care anything about packing; because, as I told you before, there are very few young persons employed in packing.

1776. But is it not an ordinary thing at present to see over the doors in Manchester the words Thomas and John So-and-so, calenderers and packers?—Yes; or makers-up and packers.

1777. Are not the words calenderers and packers the ordinary words to be seen over the doors at Manchester?—Yes, I say it is so.

1778. And that is what it means, is it?—Calenderers, makers-up, and packers is what it is usually; and if they do not calender, then it is makers-up and packers.

1779. Is not that the very identical class of establishment with respect to which you have handed in this paper?—Yes.

1780. And this is one of the places where these extremely long hours have been worked?—Yes, and a large place too.

1781. But how did your friend happen to select this particular period, from July until October 1856; was there any reason for it?—Yes.

1782. What was that reason?—The reason was this, because we have all met together, at least this man that I am acquainted with, and others, for a considerable time, perhaps for three years, and we have talked the thing over; and we considered that the best thing that could be adopted would be to have legislative interference, provided we could get it; we have talked about which would be the best means of getting it, and so forth; and it appears that this man thought he would take notice of the hours he worked, and that it would be all ready, provided he was called on at any time; I was of the same opinion as he was, but I neglected it, or else perhaps I should have had a few papers as well.

1783. That is not exactly an answer to the question I put; my question was this, whether there was any particular reason why the period from the 21st of July to the 27th of October should be selected?—I did not take it myself, or else I could easily have answered the question.

1784. *Chairman.*] Is it not, in point of fact, a period at which they worked very late?—I know that I took notice of how much money I earned in seven years, and if I had taken notice of how many hours I had worked it would have been more good. I have left it off now; and you may just as well ask me why I left that off as ask me why this was done.

1785. Do you not believe that that period was selected because it was a very strong instance of the hours of overwork?—Perhaps it might be.

1786. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is not that the period of the autumn trade, the busiest season of the year?—Yes, I should say it is, although the summer season is a very busy one; they are very busy now at that same place.

 1787. *Chairman.*]

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1787. *Chairman.*] Was that paper prepared for the purpose of giving a very strong instance of the hours of overwork?—I have just given you my reason for getting it; I told the man that I had not got any particulars of the hours, and he said that he had.

1788. Would you not think it most natural that any one wanting to illustrate the evil of long hours would select the time when the hours were longest as a proof of it?—It looks very natural that that would be so.

1789. Do not you believe that that was the case with that paper?—I do not think it is a bit worse than it is in reality.

1790. Are there many bleaching-works in which they do not calender and finish?—There are a few, but not as many now as there were formerly, because as time gets on they get better off, and then they commence calendering; formerly there were plenty of dyers who did not calender or finish, but now they have got on better, and they have calenderers and began to finish.

1791. Are there many establishments in which calendering and finishing is carried on without bleaching and dyeing?—There are a few, not many.

1792. Are they diminishing?—Yes, they are diminishing every year.

1793. Your opinion, I understand, clearly is, that any legislation would be imperfect that did not include those establishments that are merely calendering and finishing places; you would like to apply the Act to them?—Yes, I would.

1794. Is it not a fact that there is a difference of opinion among the operatives who are interested in this question upon that subject?—Yes, there is a difference of opinion, but very slight.

1795. Are there not some of them, probably the bleachers, who are willing to give up the Act as far as applies to finishers only?—Yes, and I would sooner give up that part of the Act rather than miss having a Bill altogether; we say that it would be a loss and an injustice to have them excluded, but still we would rather allow it to pass than lose the Bill altogether.

1796. Mr. *Baxter.*]. Is it not extremely difficult to define what is a making-up and finishing-room?—No, I do not think it is very difficult.

1797. You think it would be quite easy?—Yes.

1798. Is not a laundry a finishing and making-up room?—They must have fabrics; it is not considered in our branch, a laundry.

1799. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You say the bleachers are now increasing in the finishing and calendering departments; that is so, is it?—They are all extending their works as far as they can. A good many of these bleachers and dyers and finishers commenced like oneself; they had nothing to begin with; they began as they could; some began with dyeing for a while, and did nothing else; if they got on with that well, they added calendering to it, and then they began with finishing; others began with bleaching, and then if that got on well, they added calendering, and then making-up and dyeing; some began at the other end, and started with making-up and packing, and if they got on well with that they commenced dyeing and bleaching.

1800. So that the calendering, finishing, and packing in the hands of the bleachers is increasing?—Yes.

1801. Is not that also extending in the town of Manchester, among the warehousemen and merchants; the calendering as well as the finishing-up and packing?—Yes, it is all extending both ways.

1802. Do you know a large warehouse in Manchester belonging to Mr. Pender?—I am not well acquainted with it myself; I have heard of it; I know there is such a warehouse.

1803. Is he not adopting it in his warehouse?—Yes.

1804. You are of opinion that legislation ought to include such establishments as his?—Yes, I think if it did not include that it would be an injustice to Mr. Charlton, because that is a large establishment, and they do a large amount of work.

1805. And it would be an injustice to the bleachers of Bolton?—Yes, I think it would, because they might finish at Bolton and make-up as well as they do at Manchester, although I do not think it often happens so. I do not think they do it without bleaching, though they could do it.

1806. So that supposing the warehouses in Manchester were excluded, but the bleaching-works at Bolton were included in the Act, there would be nothing to prevent the bleaching firm of Messrs. Charlton, or any establishment at Manchester, from bleaching and calendering too, and then they would be free from

from the law, would not that be the case?—That depends on how the law was made. Mr. *S. Fletcher.*

1807. I am assuming it to be as the last Bill was; that clause was withdrawn then, was it not, in consequence of an announcement that if it was adopted it would transfer all the calendering and finishing department to Manchester?—I doubt but it would be so. 16 June 1857.

1808. Then, in that case, if he could not help himself he would be, in comparison, upon disadvantageous ground as regards such an establishment as Mr. Pender's?—Yes, he would in that case, although he would stand on the same ground as the other gentleman did who carried on the same business as himself. If it was only one particular business I do not know that it would matter much, although it would leave a great number unprotected, provided it does not bring finishing in; it is not very long since Mr. began dyeing in his dye-house unconnected with his calendering place, and about a mile distant from it; and it is not very long since Mr. Goodyear began to dye, and his is a finishing-house; and it is not long since Mr. Isaac Berry began to dye, and that is a very large making-up and finishing-house; they are all three very large establishments.

1809. Then, if any legislation did not include a finishing establishment, they might go on with their finishing establishment at Manchester, while their works in the country were stopped?—If that were to be the case, it would be a very bad thing; because there are very few employed in the dyeing; they are nearly all employed in the finishing department; and if the finishing is exempted, we lose the benefit of that part of the Bill, and there would be a very great number left unprotected.

1810. So that as the last Act of Parliament was drawn, not applying to these finishing establishments, the Act, in your opinion, would be defective?—Yes; that is my opinion, and it always was from the very first.

The Reverend *William Milton*, recalled.

1811. *Chairman.*] DO you wish to make any statement by way of addition to, or explanation of the evidence which you have given to the Committee?—I do; in respect of one part of my evidence, upon which some doubt was thrown by the statement of the father of the person I alluded to, and the medical man. I remember now the circumstances under which that statement of the father was obtained: the father was sent for after my statement was published, and he was desired to put his name to a paper stating that his family was unhealthy, and so on; he declined to do so; he was argued with for some time; many of his family worked in the works along with him, but the man said he could not truly say so, and would not do it; he was sent away, and told that would do for the present; he did not sign the paper on that occasion; since that, from the letter which is produced, I presume he has signed it. I should state, that the medical man who has been referred to is the very same medical man who said to me that this young woman might have been living now if she had worked from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the evening, and had her regular meals; he is the family medical man of the head of that firm; after my statement was published I believe he made some statement which I never saw, but which I find is now referred to, in order to contradict my statement. I have ventured to make these remarks in order to vindicate my evidence, upon which some doubt has been thrown. Rev. *W. Milton.*

Mr. *Samuel Price*, called in; and Examined.

1812. *Chairman.*] WERE you examined before Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes. Mr. *Samuel Price.*

1813. In what employment are you?—In the finishing and packing room.

1814. Where?—At Mr. Ainsworth's.

1815. How long have you been working in that employment?—Nearly 42 years.

1816. Have you always been in the finishing and packing department?—Till within about three years.

1817. What were you working at before?—I was odding about in the works for the three first years of my servitude, when I was working there.

1818. Will you explain what you mean by "odding"?—I went about with a pony

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a pony and caravan in the works, three of the first years that I worked in the works.

1819. That was carrying goods from one part of the works to the other?—Yes.

1820. After that, how were you employed?—Then I went into the packing-room.

1821. Then you have always been working in the packing-room when you have been employed in any of the rooms?—Yes, either in one part of the works or another.

1822. Are you acquainted with the temperature of the stove-rooms in bleaching establishments?—Not in them all.

1823. But in the room you worked in?—That was the packing-room; the temperature in that room was very high at times.

1824. What heat was it in the packing-room?—That depends on the weather, mostly; there was a drying stove adjoining the packing-room, and if the wind served one way it threw the heat into the room, which caused a great heat.

1825. During the time you have been working for Mr. Ainsworth, what have been the hours of labour?—They varied very much; but I should say, on an average, they would be from 14 to 16 hours per day, at busy times.

1826. Go back to the time when you first went to work, then what were the hours of work there?—I should say from 14 to 16 hours.

1827. Did you work as late as 12 o'clock at night?—Yes, and hundreds of times all night during my time.

1828. Can you give us any idea of what the average of work through the year was?—Not correctly.

1829. As near as you can, do you think you worked on an average during the whole year, 15 hours?—Yes, 15 or 16 hours on an average throughout the year.

1830. How often has it happened in a month that you have worked all night?—Sometimes it has happened three or four nights in a week.

1831. All night?—Yes, and perhaps we have gone home for two or three hours in the day, and then came again and worked all night again.

1832. Has that ever occurred recently?—No.

1833. Has there been any improvement then in the hours lately?—There has since the agitation of this question commenced, the hours have been shortened some little.

1834. When did that improvement take place?—Since this agitation.

1835. Do you mean the agitation for this Bill or the factory agitation?—For this Bill.

1836. When did it begin?—About 1853, I think it was.

1837. How many females are working at Mr. Ainsworth's?—I do not know.

1838. Are there 80, do you think?—I should think there are at least.

1839. How many boys, can you tell me?—There may be more boys now, because they have made a change in the machinery in the bleaching department; there are more than there used to be.

1840. Are there 50?—I should say there were.

1841. You stated to Mr. Tremenheere that there were 80 females and 50 boys?—That was correct at that time, I had just left the works, and I made that statement previously to my leaving the works.

1842. Did they work the same hours that the men did?—Yes.

1843. Had you ever any management of the boys and girls working in the finishing room?—In the packing room I had, more than 20 years.

1844. Did you observe the effects that the hours of work had upon them?—Very much.

1845. Tell us what they were?—It caused them to fall asleep.

1846. Have you seen that?—Very often.

1847. Do you mean that you have seen them fall asleep at their work?—Yes.

1848. Did you ever awake them?—Yes.

1849. How did you awake them?—Many a time by shouting, and at other times getting a board, and rapping it on the table, making a loud report that used to startle them, and I could keep them awake then for an hour, or more than that, perhaps, by frightening them.

1850. At what time did you do that?—From 11 to one.

1851. Had you often to do that?—At busy times.

1852. Are there any of your children employed in the bleaching-works now?—Two boys.

1853. Any daughters?—Not at present.

1854. Had you any?—Yes, I had two.

1855. Do you recollect a daughter of yours being obliged to leave her work?—Very well.

1856. From what cause?—From bad health.

1857. What produced the bad health?—It was being too long on her feet from the over-pressure of work; the doctor told me that that was the cause, and he told me that I must not allow her to go to the works again; if I did, she would be down again; consequently, I took her away.

1858. What was the greatest number of hours you have been working in a week; can you tell me?—I do not know that I have ever taken notice of it.

1859. Was there ever a week that you were not 16 hours in bed?—I have been many times that I have not been 20 hours in bed during the whole week.

1860. And working all the rest of the time?—And working all the rest of the time. I recollect one week, a very busy time; it was one particular order, and we were never in bed the whole week; that is a good many years ago.

1861. Mr. *Clark.*] You slept in the day time, I suppose?—We were always sleeping, almost.

1862. *Chairman.*] I believe Mr. Ainsworth is considered a good employer?—Yes, he is considered a very honourable gentleman.

1863. And has he done a good deal in the way of providing churches and schools for his workmen?—Yes, he has.

1864. Still, these long hours are carried on at his establishment?—Yes.

1865. Have you been able to form an opinion as to what the effect on the masters and workmen would be of an Act limiting the hours of labour?—They would want more machinery.

1866. Would that be a very great injury to the master?—I do not think it would; because, as the case stands now, a great deal of machinery has to run for not one-half of its power; for instance, one-half of the hands are at home or in the packing-room, the men that have to do the finishing department, the latter end of it, previous to lowering it on to wagons, or whatever they have to go upon, they are sometimes four or five seconds after many hands have done with it, consequently, the machinery has to run for that part; whereas, if they had given over at one time, the machinery might stop at one time, and the machinery would be working for the whole of the hands at once.

1867. Do you think the effect of such an Act would be to distribute the work more equally through the year?—I think it would.

1868. Do you think the same quantity of work could be undertaken in the year, with the short times, with more equal hours?—Yes, I think it could; there are slack times now, and if the work was done more regularly I think it could be done in the time.

1869. Do you think that would have the effect of distributing the business more equally among the bleaching masters?—That would depend upon themselves, I think.

1870. Do you think you are competent to form an opinion; you have heard of the objection of orders coming from shipping requiring work to be done in a very short time?—Yes.

1871. Have you considered that objection?—I have considered that they ought to have longer time to do it in; the time is too short; and I have known goods to be injured very much by being pushed.

1872. Then do you think the goods would be better done?—If there was more time to do them in.

1873. Would the effect of an Act limiting the hours of labour be a means of securing a longer time?—I think it would.

1874. Do you know whether the bleaching-works, where these long hours prevail, have much to do with shipping orders?—Large works have more to do with shipping orders than small ones.

1875. But wherever long hours prevail, you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that many of the works that worked the longest hours had little or nothing to do with shipping orders; is that so, or do you remember that?—I do not remember that now.

1876. Has Mr. Ainsworth's establishment any night schools?—Yes.

1877. Are they well attended?—No.

1878. Why?—

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1878. Why?—For one thing, there are so many of them that are working in the bleaching-works that they cannot attend them through the long hours.

1879. Lord *John Manners.*] Your boys are still employed at Mr. Ainsworth's bleaching-works, are they not?—I have two boys at work there.

1880. How long have they been in the works?—I think one has been in 14 or 15 years, and the other about 10.

1881. You call them boys; are they both grown up?—Yes, they are both young men; one is 21, and the other 28.

1882. At what age did they enter the works, do you remember?—About 12, I think.

1883. Were you able to give them some education before they went into the works?—They always attended the school previous to their going to the works.

1884. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do you recollect the wages that they earned at 12 years of age?—I believe 4 *s.* per week.

1885. And what time did they work at that age?—That would depend upon the set that they worked in; there are workings at so many per hundred per day; they receive so much, but if they do not do work that will amount to that, they will come short of it; in the finishing department they do not work by the day, they work by the hundred.

1886. And their earnings were 4 *s.* for the week, you say?—Yes, if they did six days' work.

1887. Can you give me the time that they worked each week?—No, I cannot.

1888. Was it three full days for the whole of the week, do you think?—Yes; and more than that.

1889. You have told us that the work is irregular, sometimes long hours, and sometimes short?—Yes, they are.

1890. What do these boys do when the hours are short; do they go to school?—No; perhaps they may have to wait for work an hour or two, or three hours, perhaps; the boys cannot go away, and cannot go to school.

1891. They cannot leave the premises?—No; because they may be called at any time.

1892. But when there is slack work at the works altogether, I suppose they cannot go above half a day?—They work; sometimes they cannot.

1893. Then what do they do the remaining half-day?—They have an opportunity of attending the schools.

1894. If they think fit?—Yes.

1895. Do they do so?—In many cases it is the fault of the parents if they do not.

1896. Not of the master?—No; because the privilege is held out to them, and it rests with the parents then.

1897. Is there any other kind of bleaching-works that your boys could have gone to at this early age; are there any cotton-mills in that neighbourhood?—Not very convenient.

1898. Mr. *Turner.*] How long have you worked at the occupation of a bleacher?—Nearly 42 years in the whole.

1899. At what age did you begin?—When I was going into ten.

1900. I suppose you were a healthy man during that period?—Yes.

1901. Have you ever suffered very much in your health?—No, I do not know that I suffered much, only once I got a fall in the works.

1902. An accident?—Yes.

1903. Did you ever lose a single hour during that period from sickness?—Only three weeks at three different times.

1904. Three weeks altogether during the 42 years?—Yes.

1905. Do not bleachers, as a class, consider themselves rather superior to those who work in mills?—Well, I do not know that they do.

1906. In the stoves; are the workers confined constantly to these stoves; have they not an opportunity of coming out very frequently to get fresh air?—Yes, they have; they are not wholly employed in the stoves.

1907. You sent your children to school, I think you say?—Yes.

1908. So that they can read and write, and have a pretty fair average education for their class in life?—Yes, they have.

1909. Is that generally the case among your fellow workmen?—At Mr. Ainsworth's works it is pretty general.

1910. Has Mr. Ainsworth established schools for the benefit of his work-people?—For the benefit of the neighbourhood.

1911. Of the neighbourhood generally?—Yes.

1912. I think you said that if shorter and regular hours were established, the work would still be got through?—I think it would.

1913. Have you had experience yourself of the mode in which work is supplied to master bleachers?—No.

1914. You do not know why they are busy at certain times, and slack at other times?—No.

1915. You do not know that that arises from the demand of certain merchants, the shipping sailing at particular periods?—No, I do not.

1916. Do you know that the owner of a certain mill can go if he has capital and buy his cotton at any time, and keep his mills regularly going all the time?—Yes.

1917. Do you know any reason why a bleacher cannot do the same?—I think it might be done in proper hours.

1918. Why do you come to that opinion?—Because a slack time would fetch up the difference if the work was regulated.

1919. But is it the bleacher's fault that he is sometimes slack?—I do not think it is; it would be more the merchant's than the bleacher's.

1920. But is the merchant in fault because his supplies come so irregularly?—I do not know, but I think they might rest a good portion of it with the merchant.

1921. Then you think the merchant might supply, for the sake of keeping these bleaching-works employed, and send cloth to be bleached at a time he did not want it?—That would depend on the sort of cloth.

1922. Any kind of cloth, or any kind of orders for bleaching cloth wanted for any particular market, would the merchant be prudent in buying cloth and sending it to be bleached when he did not require it?—I think not.

1923. Does he require it regularly?—No, I do not think he does for shipping orders.

1924. Then can he supply the bleachers with it regularly if he does not require it?—I do not think he could.

1925. Then why do you mean to say that the bleacher can keep his works regularly supplied in the same way that a factory owner can his mills?—Because the merchants might regulate their orders in that sort of way.

1926. You have just answered me the contrary, that he cannot; can he regulate his orders received from foreign countries; would he not be glad to execute them when he receives them; can he anticipate what will arrive?—I do not think that he can.

1927. You do not know much about it, do you?—I do not pretend to know much about it, for I never was among them during the time I was in the business.

1928. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You were asked just now whether the factory-master could not go, whenever he liked, and supply himself with cotton; that is, the raw material, you say he could?—I should say he could, he has the market to go to.

1929. The cotton comes from America, does it not?—From different places, I think, besides America.

1930. So far as you know, does it not principally come from America?—Yes.

1931. The cotton that comes from America is then worked up; spun in the factories?—Yes.

1932. And then it is made into cloth also in factories, is it not?—In connexion with the mills, I believe it is.

1933. Then has not the merchant the same power of getting the cloth that has been worked up by the factory-master that the master has of making it; is there not the raw material for the bleacher?—Yes.

1934. There is always plenty of it, is there not, in Lancashire?—I doubt but there is, but it is not only bleaching; they might get the cloth bleached, but then there is the finishing.

1935. There is the cloth to be finished, is there not, always ready?—Yes, they have cloth to be finished, but you do not know the finish that will be required for the cloth, although you have it in your hands.

1936. But there is the raw material, that is, the cloth, to be bleached and finished?—Yes.

1937. Mr. *Davison.*] Adopting that course, the merchant must become a speculator

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speculator by investing his capital in an article that he does not then require, must not that be so?—I say he may purchase the goods.

1938. But merchants do not generally, until they get the orders, give an order for the execution of the work?—No, I do not believe they do; I do not think it would be wisdom to do so.

1939. Then, when he gives his order, he gives it for a particular description of goods, and to be finished in a particular manner?—Yes.

1940. Would you not consider him a very unwise man, as a merchant, who would not only speculate in the goods, in orders that he may never receive, but also speculate in the particular finish which may never be required?——

1941. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Does the bleacher purchase the cloth that he bleaches and finishes?—No.

1942. It is delivered to him?—Yes.

1943. By whom?—By the merchant or manufacturer, I believe.

1944. Does the merchant, or agent who sends him the cloth, buy it before he receives some order for it?—I cannot tell that.

1945. You do not know?—No.

1946. Are you of opinion that a bleacher can carry on his business as steadily as a cotton-spinner?—It would require regulation; if legislative interference was enforced, I do not doubt that they might regulate it, the same as they do under the Factory Act.

1947. The bleacher might become the buyer of the cloth?—No; I do not think he could.

1948. He would always be subject, then, to the changes of the merchant, would he not, even after your Act passed?—I do not know how that could be; it would want regulating.

1949. Would you not want an Act to regulate the merchant, to compel him to be more steady in his delivery of goods to the bleacher?—I do not see how they could make an Act for that.

1950. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Does not the manufacturer frequently send to the bleacher himself, without the intervention of the merchant at all?—Some do, and some do not.

1951. In your own neighbourhood of Bolton, do not the manufacturers send their cloth to the bleachers to be bleached?—Yes; there are manufacturers in Bolton that do so.

1952. Do you know Mr. Crooks, of Bolton?—Yes.

1953. Do you know whether Mr. Crooks does so?—I do not know; it is a department I never worked at.

Veneris, 19° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Butt.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.
Lord John Manners.
Mr. Massey.
Mr. Packe.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Barbour, Esquire, called in; and Examined.

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1954. *Chairman.*] WILL you have the kindness to state to the Committee what your occupation is?—A Commission Merchant at Manchester.

1955. I believe you gave your evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, the commissioner, three years ago?—I did.

1956. I see, in answer to question 352, you state to Mr. Tremenheere, "We do not think the merchants, as a body, would be affected, or would raise any objection to legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleaching-works, even if it had the effect of limiting the quantity of work done within a certain time." Will you have the kindness to state to this Committee the reasons which induced you to come to that opinion?—There are a variety of reasons connected with the conclusion which both myself and one of my partners came to with reference to the question. There are great facilities now for exporting goods compared with what there were some years ago; and if you receive an order and you cannot get goods up in time for the vessel, almost immediately, for most markets, you have another opportunity. Another reason is, that for the more distant markets, if we receive orders for instance to load a vessel, or a portion of a vessel, we generally have sufficient time to prepare the whole of the goods that are required for that one vessel; and the goods which require finishing of course have our first attention, in order to get ready for this vessel. I am quite aware that delay very often takes place, probably in putting the goods in process for those shipments that require finishing, but if the hours of labour were more limited, it would tend to induce merchants to give out those orders even more promptly than is done now.

1957. Are the Committee to understand, that under the present system, the merchants do not feel that there is any necessity for them to give out their orders promptly, as they might and would do under a more restricted system of labour?—They feel that there is a necessity; but under those circumstances there would be still greater necessity to give the work out promptly in order to ensure the delivery of those goods in time for a certain ship.

1958. There being that necessity, do you see any practical difficulty in the way of the merchants giving out their orders more promptly than they have hitherto done?—Of course the particular difficulty comes from the state of the market; if we expect goods to fall in price, we delay purchasing as long as we possibly can; that is one circumstance that sometimes comes in the way; but generally speaking, I do not see any practical difficulty in the way of merchants giving out their orders. The difficulty frequently arises in this way; suppose, for instance, there is the mail from India, and perhaps a vessel is going off at a certain time, it will be the endeavour of every merchant to get his goods first to market. The general working of it is this; they say, "We will furnish such a quantity of those goods if you will deliver them by a given day"; then we go to the bleachers, and say, "If you can finish us a quantity of shirtings, or other things, upon a given day, we will give you them." There would be no necessity for that if all were upon the same footing. I do not think it would make any great difference whether we got those goods by the very day we desired to have them; if they missed this vessel,

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we should get one in the course of a fortnight afterwards. The great matter is, that all parties should be put upon an equality.

1959. I need hardly ask you whether the facilities for supplying the foreign markets have greatly increased during the last few years?—They have greatly increased.

1960. Are the Committee generally to understand that the same difficulty which prevailed before steam was invented, or before it was brought to its present state of perfection, now exists with reference to the supply of foreign markets?—Certainly not; there is additional facility for the supply of foreign markets after the existence of steam. A great many of the fancy goods are sent to many of the nearer markets by steamers, instead of sailing vessels; it must be considered to have given additional facilities in supplying foreign markets.

1961. Have you had any communication or conversation lately with any of the other commission merchants in Manchester upon this subject?—No, I have not; I was not aware until Wednesday that I was to be called here, and I had occasion to go from home yesterday, and I have not seen any one upon the subject.

1962. Mr. *Davison.*] In point of fact, is it not a matter of great moment to have the orders which you receive executed as soon as possible?—Clearly so. It is the case with all businesses, of course.

1963. And, of course, it is a matter of great moment to be the first in the foreign market, if possible, is it not?—Clearly so.

1964. How would you like a law passed that would compel the merchant to have always in store himself the goods fitted for the foreign market?—I do not think any merchant would like it; I do not think it is necessary.

1965. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that, speaking as a commission merchant, you have no objection to the proposed legislation affecting the labour of women and young persons in bleach-works?—That embraces a wide question. I think it is very desirable that the Legislature should interfere in the least possible degree with trade of any kind; but there may be exceptional cases with regard to boys and females, where it may be necessary, probably, for the Legislature to come in. At the same time, if you could do without that it is very much better. There is one point connected with boys, particularly, and young girls, which I should like to mention; we hear a general complaint from all schools and other educational seminaries, that the children are taken away at much too early an age from school—that they are not half educated.

1966. At what age are the children in the bleach-works round Manchester taken away from the schools?—I cannot speak with regard to the bleach-works, for there are very few of them in the immediate neighbourhood of Manchester. Those remarks I offered as to the children, particularly apply to the various occupations connected with Manchester; but I think it is a very great evil which I refer to, and one connected with the factory system, which does not appear to me to work well; I allude to the system of partially employing children at work; I would rather keep them at school till they are educated, and keep them for the whole time at school.

1967. Does this observation of yours apply strictly to the generality of children at the bleach-works?—Strictly; I am not aware of the age at which they are chiefly employed about Bolton.

1968. Mr. *Davison.*] Suppose a restriction with regard to hours were put upon bleachers, would not it leave the merchants optional still as regards the mode of sending in their orders?—It would leave it optional; but the interest of every merchant would be, when he knows he has a certain stipulation, to send his orders out soon, or he would not get them back in time for the market.

1969. Would not a restriction imposed upon the bleachers still leave it optional to the merchant or commission agent to whom he had given his order as to the time within which he should give it?—Clearly.

1970. Mr. *Kirk.*] As a commission merchant, do you pack in your own establishment?—We do, to a large extent; we cannot always do everything, and we sometimes send them out to be packed.

1971. To whom do you send your goods to be packed?—To the packers.

1972. What is the description of person generally understood as a packer?—In Manchester packers are merely makers-up, and packers for merchants.

1973. What

1973. What do you mean by that?—Take, for instance, shirtings, or take jacconets, or a variety of things, they examine them, and hook them up, and pack them; that is what is usually done.

1974. Is there much difference between a packer-up in a bleach-work and a packer-up in the city of Manchester?—The only difference is this, that the bleacher combines a variety of other operations.

1975. Will you confine your answer to the packing-up department, which in the proposed Act of Parliament is specially alluded to?—With regard to bleachers, the practice of late years, I presume, is, that the bleachers in many cases pack the goods that they bleach for the merchants, and send them off to the ships, but along with that they combine a variety of nice operations, the bleaching, and so on. With regard to the mere act of packing, of course there is no difference between them and any other packers.

1976. Is it your opinion that you yourself and the other packers-up in Manchester should come under the operation of this Act as well as the bleachers?—I think there is great difficulty in applying the Act generally, when you come to anything that is very specific. You may lay down a certain principle with regard to particular operations, but as to the trade generally, there would be a great risk.

1977. Would not you have a great objection to an inspector walking into your packing-room and saying that your men must stop work, or you would be fined?—Yes, certainly.

1978. Does that apply equally to the packing-rooms of bleachers, or is there any reason why the bleachers should be under a restrictive law?—It does not appear that the question with regard to bleachers is immediately connected with the packing; packing is a mere fractional part of his employment; it is the bleaching and finishing the goods: the great bulk of the goods produced by the bleachers are delivered in Manchester and elsewhere unpacked.

1979. It is in evidence before us that in the packing-rooms the principal part of the cruelty exists; how is that?—It is accounted for in this way, that the packing is the last operation; and if the goods are not finished by a particular hour it is impossible that they can be packed.

1980. Could you give the Committee any idea as to what hours you at any time employ your people in packing goods?—We in our business are very irregular; we depend much on vessels going off; probably the bleacher himself delivers the goods in the evening, when the vessel is going the following day, and we cannot avoid packing the goods at night.

1981. About what time do you consider that the people are at work in the packing-room?—In extreme cases they may have been till 10 or 11 o'clock, perhaps 12; I cannot well state; I have not so immediately the charge of that department as I used to do.

1982. Do you believe that it is not at all unusual in cases of necessity for shipping that persons do work, even in your own premises, to 11 and 12 o'clock at night?—Occasionally they do so for a particular ship.

1983. Would not that form the ground of your objection to a restrictive law preventing those people working after a certain hour, or subjecting you to a fine?—Not altogether; of course I should not like the surveillance of an inspector coming in. With regard to the question of restriction, I think most parties are desirous of curtailing the hours of labour as far as they can; the hours of labour in most establishments are very much less than they were many years ago.

1984. Is not it the tendency of the feeling, both of the employers and employed, to shorten the hours of labour?—Decidedly so.

1985. Do not you believe that its operation has been as effective in Manchester as any legislative enactment could possibly be?—As far as Manchester goes, I think it is; I think that no one has particular cause to complain with regard to Manchester; the tendency perhaps is to go to the opposite extreme in particular cases.

1986. Do you think that the people of Manchester are the only exception to the rule?—Where there are works in Manchester, either bleachers or dyers, if there is any law passed, of course it must apply to them as well as to others; but it is difficult to lay down a principle to be applied to every kind of establishment; the great difficulty is where to draw the line. I have no personal objections that our establishment should be closed every night by seven or eight o'clock, but you cannot do it; we feel that we are partly the servants of the public. Some merchants

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may come and say, You must get our goods ready, and we cannot help ourselves, though we do not desire it.

1987. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Is not the bleacher to the same extent your servant?—He is, but he is in this position, that if, for instance, I receive an order, or any other merchant receives an order for a certain quantity of goods to be ready by a given day, if the bleacher tells us that it is impossible to do them by the time, we must make our arrangements accordingly: in many cases many of the warehousemen, I dare say, at Manchester are very unreasonable with the bleachers, by stating that they must have the goods by a given day, although in many of those cases I do not think it is at all necessary that they should, and they are obliged to work all night to get them done, and sometimes the goods are not so well done. Some years ago we used to be subject to complaint of some goods, which we know did arise from the goods being hurried and put out damp. Of late years we have had very few complaints of that kind.

1988. You stated in answer to a question put to you, that there is always an inducement upon your part to have the goods ready as early as possible after the receipt of the order?—Clearly so.

1989. Do occasional delays take place in the sending out of orders from the state of the market as regards price?—Yes.

1990. Does that circumstance narrow the time to be allowed to the bleacher for the completion of his work?—Quite so.

1991. And consequently a pressure takes place upon the bleacher?—Yes, quite so.

1992. That which takes place in your case I presume acts generally?—Quite so.

1993. Your case is not an exception to the general rule?—Not at all.

1994. Would not the bleachers be in the same position with regard to other houses as with regard to your own?—Clearly so.

1995. What do you propose as a remedy for the bleacher in this state of things?—The only remedy appears to be this, that the bleacher must say that he cannot finish the goods by a certain time, or he must increase his establishment in order to get them done, or employ machinery, or do it some other way.

1996. Would it be a benefit for the Legislature to compel him thus to provide machinery?—As I stated, I am highly averse to any legislation with trade of any kind. With respect to the factory question, I do not think it is found that with regard to the merchant of yarns the legislative interference was any grievance; if we go to the spinner making yarn, and he says he cannot make what we want by the required time, we either go somewhere else, or wait.

1997. Is not there a great difference between holding yarn and holding bleached goods?—I was speaking with regard to the execution of orders; there is this great distinction between the bleacher and the spinner, that the mill must go on; but the bleacher suspends his operations when he has nothing to do.

1998. Is not it the fact that he is compelled to do so, because he would spoil the goods if he finished them at his own risk and held them over?—I do not think there is much risk in finishing goods and holding them over; but it is the practice not to hold over.

1999. Might not a bleacher say, I expect a similar order next month to the one I have received this month, and I will bleach goods for it?—It is not the bleacher who would do that; it would be the merchant or the trader in Manchester who would do that; but that would not be done at the risk of the bleachers; I do not think that the bleachers speculate in that way.

2000. Is not it the case that goods held over are not so valuable to the purchaser as his goods that come direct from the bleach-works?—Generally, when they are finished, they are not left open, but they are kept packed; but they are not kept for any length of time.

2001. Do I rightly understand you to state that the merchant, who alone holds the stock, as a rule, seldom does hold it?—Yes.

2002. When he receives orders, he then makes a pressure upon the bleacher to deliver them?—He immediately puts them in process.

2003. Mr. *Davison.*] The difference between a spinner and a bleacher I understand to be this, that the spinner has his materials by him, his cotton or his flax, whereas the bleacher is dependent upon the merchant's orders; is that so?—Yes.

2004. The one must go on, and the other depends upon the execution of his orders at the time?—Quite so; the positions of the two are quite different.

2005. Mr. *Packe*.] In reference to an answer you have recently given, is not it the fact that you are liable to heavy and serious losses if the goods are hastily bleached and finished?—Some years ago, as I stated, we had a great many complaints; there very often have been complaints made for goods damaged, and there has always been a great question as to the cause of this damage; the bleacher, of course, in most cases, has stated that the liability is not with him; that it has arisen either in the course of the packing or of the shipping. There are a variety of causes, and it has been almost impossible to tell what was the real cause. My own impression is, that if the bleacher has a reasonable time to bleach and finish the goods, there is much less liability to damage than there is when they are very hastily done; and of late years we, as merchants, have had very few complaints of the damage arising from bleaching, which, I suppose, arises from the bleachers taking more care to send them up dry. If they send them up in a damp state the goods are apt to get mildewed before they arrive at their destination.

2006. Does that arise from their being hastily made up?—It is a difficult question to say how it arises, but my belief is that it arises from their being hastily done; they may be put up damp.

2007. Is not it frequently the case that the injury arises from the humidity of the climate to which they are sent?—It may arise; if the goods are put up dry, it may not hurt them.

2008. Are not you obliged to take greater precautions with regard to some markets than others?—Decidedly so.

2009. If the goods were packed in the same way for all markets, would not you find that for some markets they would be injured?—If you come to pack bleached goods you must be very careful; if you pack them for China, you put them in tin, but in such case they are liable still to mildew, if the goods are in an improper state when they are packed.

2010. Mr. *Davison*.] Would not unskilfulness in the bleaching or in the process of dyeing, independently of the packing up, tend to produce damage to the goods?—Just so; the goods are hurried, so that we have not time to examine all the goods, and sometimes they are injured.

2011. Irrespective of damp, may not an unskilful man in the trade dye the goods so as to produce damage?—He may.

2012. Is not that an evil that will remedy itself?—Generally the bleachers and dyers are intelligent men, and there is not much danger of that.

2013. Mr. *Cheetham*.] You said that if the bleacher always had a reasonable time for the execution of his order, it would be properly delivered; does the merchant ever take into account what is a reasonable time for the bleacher?—We know, in certain classes of goods, that we cannot have them returned before a given time; as to ordinary goods, any one knows that you may bleach goods in a day, if it is necessary. My opinion, therefore, brings me to the judgment that it may involve some extra expense to the bleacher in finishing them quickly; and I believe that there is a risk, both to the merchant and the bleacher, in so doing.

2014. In his endeavours to meet the desires of the merchant, is he not obliged to work these irregular hours?—If he undertakes to deliver the goods, of course he must do it.

2015. Are you aware of the least time in which he could deliver goods in a proper state; could he deliver them in seven days, for instance?—That is rather a difficult question; I should think that, by going to an extra expense, he could deliver in a shorter time than that; but he could not carry on a large concern in that way.

2016. Would not the extra expense incur extra work also?—Yes; he would incur additional expense in chemicals in order to purify them.

2017. Whatever expense he would pay for this chemical preparation, must not the workmen work additional hours upon part of the work?—I do not know; but I presume that the natural inference is that it would lead to that.

2018. Mr. *Davison*.] Supposing that a law be passed limiting the hours within which the workpeople in the bleach-works shall work, is it not your opinion that it will lead to hasty bleaching in order to meet the demands of the merchant?—I am not sure that it would; I think it would rather lead probably to a better system of management.

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2019. By an extension of works?—By an extension of the works upon the part of the bleacher, and by the merchant giving his orders more early.

2020. Will not the merchant remain free?—He will remain free, but it is his own interest to get the goods well done.

2021. Supposing that you found that you could get your orders executed in a very short time, what effect would that have upon the merchant, would not he take the last moment to get the benefit of the market and the prices of the day?—No doubt he would.

2022. Then, if that be so, do not you think that the case that I have put will have the effect of doing injury by the sudden and hasty bleaching of goods?—No, I think not; because I think the merchant knows perfectly, as I have stated, that the goods were done at a great risk, and that it assists the sale of them very much to get them well finished. In a case of emergency he might give out goods and get them rapidly in; but that would be the exception; the principle would be to give a sufficient time to the bleacher to bleach his goods.

2023. Have not you already stated that you had had goods damaged from some defect in the process?—Yes.

2024. Have you known that by giving abundance of time you might probably guard against that?—Yes; I dare say in the cases I refer to the bleacher may have had ample time; he may have been pushed by some other order, and may have put down goods in a corner, so that when the goods were wanted they were not ready.

2025. He may have been pushed by the merchant?—He may have been pushed by one or two merchants.

2026. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Has not there always been a desire upon the part of the merchant to be first in the foreign market with his goods?—Clearly so.

2027. Does not that desire operate among all classes?—Yes.

2028. And whenever there are orders to complete for the foreign market to sail by a particular vessel, might not the bleacher be pressed by all the different merchants?—He is now; and he might be under all circumstances, but he would have some benefit. I do not think the merchants would be in a worse position than they are in now. Supposing, for instance, a mail arrived to-day, and certain merchants have orders to send goods when the vessels are sailing by certain days, the bleachers say, "We cannot do that; we are all engaged."

2029. Mr. *Davison.*] Within what time, as far as your own experience goes, would a bleacher execute an order of a general nature; what would be a reasonable time for the execution of the order?—It depends very much upon the class of goods and upon the extent of the goods; for instance, if we had an order for China which would come in great masses, and that a good many pieces were to be shipped, they would have a month or six weeks to execute the order, and the bleacher for a large order will require 10 days.

2030. Supposing a clause were put in the proposed Bill to require all merchants to give 10 days' notice, how would you like that?—I think it would be absurd; for this reason, if you say that the merchant is only to bleach longcloths, you may do it; but when there is a quantity of different things, all the different things take a different time; if you tie us down to a particular time, you may legislate in respect to it.

2031. Is it your notion that it would be absurd to tie up the commission merchant?—I have no objection to be tied up any more than any other party.

2032. Supposing we give you 10 or 12 days to send the order, would that be reasonable?—I do not think it will be right at all, under any circumstances, for this reason, there are great improvements going on with regard to bleaching; some party in Manchester is offering to bleach goods in a day; improvements may take place with regard to bleaching, and it would not be fair to tie us down.

2033. Supposing that we put a bleacher in the witness box; do not you think that he would be of opinion that the merchants should be tied up by legislative enactment to give their orders in a certain time, and not the bleachers?—I think sometimes the merchant is much to blame; it is not the bleacher only.

2034. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Supposing the bleacher does not deliver the goods by the time the vessel sails; what is your mode of dealing with him?—At one period, when there were very few opportunities of shipping, we perhaps held the bleachers liable in a penalty; but that has quite exploded now, there are no such things.

2035. Is there any case in which the goods have been invoiced to the bleacher for

for such a detention?—I do not think we have ever had a case; there may have been some trifling deduction made.

2036. Do not you think, as regards the result to himself, and also to oblige his customer, the bleacher has every impelling motive to work long hours to complete those orders?—I think he cannot help himself.

2037. We had evidence, at our last meeting, from an operative bleacher, who gave it as his strong opinion, and, I believe, as representing his fellow-workmen, that it was absolutely requisite that all the makers-up, finishers, and packers of the warehouses in Manchester and elsewhere should be brought within the operation of any legislative enactment that may be made with regard to the bleachers; is that your opinion?—No; it certainly is not my opinion.

2038. Where do you draw the distinction?—That is one difficulty I feel.

2039. Do you admit that it is only fair to all parties to bring them all alike into the Bill?—I think it is perfectly reasonable, that if it possibly could be done, all parties should be brought under the new system of legislation.

2040. Are they not the same class of workmen in the one case or in the other, either in your warehouse or in the bleacher's warehouse?—There is a distinction between the one case and the other; in the one case packing in the bleach department is an exceptional case; in our case we have nothing to do with finishing and bleaching, and we are often, as I said, put in a corner by the bleacher himself bringing down the goods at seven or eight at night, when we have to ship them the following morning; what can we do?

2041. Are you aware that at Manchester there are other establishments that do not differ in that respect?—Yes, quite so.

2042. Would you undertake a legislative enactment with regard to those establishments?—I think it would be very vexatious

2043. Have not you young people there employed, under the same circumstances as in the bleach-works?—I think not, because the bleach-works employ females, and in the warehouses they do not; perhaps in the calendering process they may employ boys.

2044. Would not the Act be as applicable to establishments of that kind as to bleach-works?—They do not employ females.

2045. Would it not apply with regard to boys under 18?—A warehouse opens at eight o'clock, and the principle now is to close at seven. The principle does not apply with regard to boys in warehouses as it does to a great finishing establishment, such as a bleaching or dyeing work; the bleachers, more particularly, begin in the morning and work till eight, nine, or ten at night; I do not know the hours exactly.

2046. In your establishments, are they not working almost as late, and as irregularly as in the bleach-works?—I think not so.

2047. Do you concur with the opinion of the operatives that those establishments ought to be placed under legislative control?—I concur with them, if it is possible, but I do not think it possible to do it; it would be against the interests of the community.

2048. Mr. *Davison.*] Have they ever worked all night on any occasion in your establishment?—I think not.

2049. *Chairman.*] Will you tell the Committee how many people you employ?—I can hardly tell.

2050. Can you tell the Committee about how many women and boys are employed by you?—We employ no women.

2051. Have you any boys?—Yes.

2052. Can you tell how many in proportion to your adults?—I can hardly tell; we employ some boys to hook or fold up; that is a point which I have never looked at particularly; I should not like to state the number unless I referred to some document; we employ very few boys in our general warehouse; we employ some lads for packing-up, but I cannot state the number.

2053. Are the Committee to understand that you are against including the packing department in the operation of any Bill?—Clearly so.

2054. Would that apply then to the packing-up department in the bleach-works as well as your own?—That is a matter for the consideration of the Legislature. We in many cases are dependent upon the bleaching establishment; we are compelled by a necessity to pack the goods sometimes at night.

2055. Did I rightly understand you to say, that you thought that if the bleaching

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bleaching and dyeing operations were regulated by Act of Parliament, the effect would be felt even upon the packing department?—It would be felt in this way, that if the bleachers, for instance, were obliged to bleach their goods by a certain time, the merchants would get their goods probably delivered sooner than they do now in many cases; in that way the packing department would be got through earlier.

2056. Therefore if the hours of labour are shortened and regulated by Act of Parliament in the bleaching, dyeing, and finishing departments, am I to understand you to say that the labour, even in the packing department, would also be diminished?—Yes; it would be got through earlier.

2057. Did not you say that at present, under an unregulated system of labour, you, as a commission merchant, cannot tell the Committee how long it would take a bleacher to execute any particular order?—The usual time is from a week to a fortnight; that is I think the principle; but so much depends upon the class of goods, or even upon the bleacher. For a particular class of goods that we have ordered, we must get them done by a particular bleacher, and we must get them done at his time; we are at his mercy; but from some bleachers we cannot get the goods back for a fortnight, or even longer.

2058. The hours of labour which are to be pursued in these orders at present being unregulated, you cannot tell how long the bleachers will go on?—We cannot tell; it is our object to get the goods; and it is for the bleacher to consider whether he is doing right to keep the goods.

2059. If the hours of labour were regulated, would a commission merchant have a clearer knowledge of the time that would be required by the bleacher to execute the orders?—Decidedly so; we should then feel that we must give them a reasonable time; we should know that we could not push the goods beyond a certain point.

2060. Therefore, as a commission merchant, are you of opinion that if the hours of the bleachers were regulated you would know better what time is allowed for the execution of any particular orders that you sent?—We do know that; we should know better, because then we could not go to the bleacher and say, We want goods at a particular time, and they are to be delivered.

2061. Is not that arrangement still entered into in ignorance on your part as to the time that will be spent upon it by the bleacher?—It entirely depends upon how he is situated, whether he is busy or not.

2062. Under the proposed system of legal hours you would know how many hours the bleachers would be able to bleach?—We should know that, but we never should know whether the bleacher had a great quantity of goods to bring forward or not.

2063. Mr. *Davison.*] In fact, are not you dependent upon the information you receive from the bleacher as to within what period he would execute your order?—Quite so.

2064. And the change would, of course, leave you in the same position?—Certainly.

2065. *Chairman.*] I think you said, in answer to a question, that under the present system the bleacher cannot help himself, and that he is obliged to work those long hours; is not that so?—I will just give you a case; supposing you want to purchase a certain quantity of goods, and go to any of the houses that deal in those goods in Manchester, and you say, I want a large quantity, say 1,000 pieces, of a given article by a given day, those parties in their anxiety to effect the sale, say probably at once, We will undertake to do it, or they say, We will see the bleachers, and give an answer in the afternoon, and when they see the bleachers they tell the bleachers that they must have them up, and the bleachers are compelled to get them up, or lose the order, though there is no necessity for it; but that is the working very much of the present state of things.

2066. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Can you alter that state of things by legislation?—I think there will be less risk of it, as there are no regulations just now; the bleacher can work all night; he can tell his hands that there is an order which must be done by a certain day, and they would be obliged to work.

2067. *Chairman.*] Is there any prospect, in your opinion, of that necessity upon the bleacher being remedied, except by legislative interference?—I see great difficulty in the way of it. There is such competition that all parties are anxious to get business, that, except the workpeople themselves would make a stand, and

say

say that they would not work the number of hours, it cannot be done; if they said that, the thing would be remedied.

2068. Would not that be what is called a strike?—I think that they are not under the same risks of strikes as they were formerly. The masters find it more for their interest, where their workpeople are reasonable, to compromise the matter and arrange it. There is not that great line of demarcation between the working man and the master that there formerly was, and that there is a sort of sympathy between them, I believe; if the people are reasonable, I think the masters are disposed to listen to them.

2069. Is it your opinion that such a request on the part of the working bleacher would be a reasonable request?—I think so.

2070. Is it your opinion that the masters would come to reason with their operatives, and would agree to it?—I think that the masters will be glad to have the hours limited.

2071. Would many of those masters, in your opinion, be willing to have arrangements for the shortening of the hours of their works, unless the whole of them did the same?—If the process was carried through, the others would be compelled to submit to it; the bleachers are not, as the factory people, in such great masses; there are a small number, and if the principle I am stating were established, the hands would not submit to work these extreme hours.

2072. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Have you ever known in your experience anywhere where they have made a resistance to those long hours?—I am not aware of any.

2073. You have stated as your deliberate opinion, that in any interference of legislation in this matter it should be proceeded with with the greatest caution?—Yes.

2074. That, as a principle, you are opposed to it, and that there must be some exceptional ground for it?—Quite so.

2075. You were examined by Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes.

2076. Did you express that opinion to him?—I do not remember; our interview was conversational, and he put down what he thought right, and asked me if I said that; that was merely a fraction of what I said.

2077. Do you mean to say that you might have stated to him your objection to legislative interference?—If he had put the question to me I should have said it; but I will not say that I did, because I am not aware whether he put such a question to me.

2078. Then you do not recollect whether you expressed to him such an opinion as you do now?—No.

2079. At all events, you are quite sure that no such expression of opinion is upon the minutes?—Yes.

2080. Is it common for the bleachers to have a quantity of stock beforehand?—Not at all; they may have a large quantity of goods waiting orders from the merchant, and the manufacturers may go thither with goods upon their own account, but they do not bleach upon their own account. I have heard that in Ireland it is quite different from the bleachers of cotton goods; they bleach on their own account. Many, of course, of the large home establishments in Manchester supply all sorts of goods.

2081. Is not it usual for them to have stock in hand, without submitting to this great risk?—Yes; they cannot keep themselves from stock; they bleach the goods when they please. For instance, the bleacher may have a quantity of goods belonging to a manufacturer, and the manufacturer may sell those goods perhaps to half-a-dozen different merchants, and each merchant probably has his own impress to print upon these goods, or his own ticket, or a variety of things that cannot be done till the goods are bleached. The bleacher cannot finish the goods until he gets instructions, either from the merchant or the manufacturer.

2082. Can they be placed in such a forward state that they could be more easily finished when the order came in?—I fancy they might; but I do not think that any bleacher would do it, because it would involve perhaps double the cost. If they were to put them through the first operations, and not go on, it would involve a great expense to the bleacher.

2083. Mr. *Butt*.] Did I rightly understand you to say that you thought that possibly the long hours of work could be stopped by the resistance of the workpeople themselves?—I do not see how they could; I think it is just possible that they might.

2084. To do that, in the first place, the masters must yield, or else it would amount to a strike; is not that so?—Yes.

2085. In the next place, must not all the workmen in one establishment agree?—Yes, or the majority of them.

2086. Not only must that agreement extend to the workmen of one establishment, but it must extend to the workmen generally in the neighbourhood?—Yes.

2087. And it must be successful in every instance, inasmuch as one master who persevered in the long hours would gain an advantage over those who yielded?—Just so.

2088. Are you aware whether, in point of fact, that course has been tried in the cotton bleaching-works in Scotland?—I am not aware of that.

2089. Have you looked at Mr. Tremenheere's report?—I have looked at it, but I have not gone fully into the report.

2090. Was your attention directed to the fact that a large number of bleaching-houses in the west of Scotland signed an agreement to work short hours, if the others would agree, but that at last they came to the conclusion that it was impossible to carry it out without a legislative enactment?—I was not aware of that.

2091. Are you aware that in the dyeing of the hosiery of Nottingham a system such as you have suggested did, in point of fact, obtain, and broke down?—I was not aware of that.

2092. Did I rightly understand you to say, that there are nothing like the unreasonable hours for the work of women in the packing establishments that there are in the bleaching establishments?—No; they are not employed there at all.

2093. Do you believe that in the packing establishments anything like a system of continuous work for boys through most of the hours of the night prevails?—I think that in all the packing establishments the process is altogether performed by men; I think that they have no boys; there may be boys occasionally employed to feed the presses.

2094. In point of fact, there does not exist in the bleaching-works anything like the working of young boys through the hours of the night for weeks successively?—Not at all.

2095. If it were proved to you, that as a general system throughout the packing establishments, that did take place, would you consider it necessary to remedy that by a legislative enactment?—I think wherever there is a great crying evil, it ought to be remedied in some way or other; and if it must be remedied, then it is a mere question of the Legislature to come in and say that it must be done, though there was a loss to somebody as the result.

2096. Then is there not this fair distinction between the necessity for legislative interference with packing establishments and with these bleaching-works, that in the one case the crying evil does exist, and that in the other it does not?—It may exist to some extent.

2097. Would not the propriety of legislative interference depend upon the extent of the evil?—Yes.

2098. Would it be your opinion that it would be better to submit to a small evil than for the Legislature to interfere?—It would, if there was not any great crying evil.

2099. Must it not be a question of degree?—Yes, clearly so; and the great difficulty lies in the question that was put to me, which leads to drawing a very nice distinction. If the Legislature did interfere, they could only remedy the evil with regard to a certain class; there are a great many people who would not come under that class, and who are much aggrieved at present; for instance, the dressmakers are a class that are said to be most oppressed of all; but still it would have an influence upon all classes. If a certain class of females were protected, the influence would be felt upon the hours of those not protected by it, and thus their time might be limited also.

2100. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Has the influence resulting from protection of the women in the factory been felt in the case of milliners and others in the city of London?—There is a general improvement in the case of females, for the purpose of protecting them to a certain extent.

2101. Are you aware that a reduction of the hours of milliners and others in the city of London has not taken place?—I am not aware what is the case in London; in Lancashire there are great improvements in that direction; and I think

think that females are better off than they were; they are not so overworked as they were; the tendency is to limit them still more.

2102. In the case of Manchester, what has been done has been done without legislation; is not that so?—Yes.

2103. Mr. *Butt.*] You stated that there was a general feeling in favour of shortening the hours of labour?—Clearly.

2104. Do you think that that general feeling has been produced by the existence and operation of the Factory Act?—That may have given, perhaps, a commencement to the movement. Perhaps Manchester was the first town that made a great improvement with regard to the Saturday half-holiday. That has given another impetus to the shortening of the hours of labour, and the shopkeepers are beginning to close their shops on the Saturday afternoon and earlier in the evening than they used to do, and the tendency is to limit the hours of labour in all classes.

2105. Do you think that that is from the opinion which the Legislature adopted in the Factory Act, and that the experience of the effect of that legislation has contributed to spread that feeling?—I cannot tell, but I should think that it probably has.

2106. Would not that general feeling operate upon the masters to induce them not to work their men long hours?—The tendency is that way at present.

2107. Do not you think that it would operate with much less force upon the merchant, or any one giving orders to him, although the secondary consequence of the merchant giving his late order is to entail long hours upon the workmen?—I think that the merchant giving the late order does not think of the feeling of long hours; he does not look at it; he says, There, it is possible to bleach these goods by some chemical operation, by which they can get them up much quicker than they used to do, and that is all he thinks of.

2108. Still, I understand you to say that the effect of that upon the bleacher would be to cause him either to work longer hours or to lose the order?—Yes, or to introduce improvements in carrying out his work; he might lose it for a time.

2109. Is not the cause of that evil often the fact of a merchant giving a late order?—It may be, but the merchant cannot help himself; and if the bleacher said, "I cannot execute the order," or, "I shall run the risk of damaging the goods," the merchant would say, "I will not run that risk, and I will wait."

2110. I think you used the expression that the bleacher could not help himself if the merchant gave the order, but he does it because the salesman in some establishment says, "I must have them, or I will go to somebody else"?—

2111. Is not that the pressure which is put upon the master?—He is forced frequently.

2112. Then, however anxious the bleacher may be to have short hours kept in his establishments, is he not still subject to pressure from without?—He would be, no doubt.

2113. And a person who put that pressure upon him is one upon whom the feeling of short hours would not operate?—It is a question that does not enter into his calculation. If the bleacher were to say, "I cannot give you the goods without working all night;" I should say, "Do not do it." We know perfectly well that a piece of goods can be bleached in a day.

2114. Do you think that the inconvenience in the trade, arising from this measure, would be very trifling?—Yes.

2115. At present there is a physical limitation to the time in which the goods can be done?—Yes.

2116. That limitation would be slightly increased by the proposed enactment?—Yes.

2117. If there is a necessity, from moral causes, for that limitation being increased, would not the merchant accommodate himself to it, exactly as he does to the physical limitation?—I think so; there might be a little inconvenience, but I think that it would not be felt upon the trade of the country as a whole.

2118. Mr. *Davison.*] Did I rightly understand you in your answer to say, that the communication does not generally take place between you and the bleacher, but that you generally give the order to the manufacturer?—It is done both ways; we give orders often to the bleachers, and whenever we do, we give them as much time as possible; there are cases sometimes where we are hurried.

2119. Those cases you are obliged to hurry?—Yes; we ask the bleacher if he

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can finish the goods by a certain time, and the bleacher is very obliging, and he says he will do them.

2120. Are you aware that in the bleaching department during a great portion of the year they are not doing much work?—No; I mean that I think that many years ago that used to be more so than it is now; the trade of the country is more steady than it used to be, and it does not go so much by seasons as it used to do.

2121. Is it your opinion that the bleacher has a fair amount of average work every day?—I think that they are not subject to the extreme pushes that they were years ago.

2122. Is it not the fact that these pushes exist at the present day?—They always will exist as long as trade exists.

2123. In your packing operations do you employ steam machinery?—Yes, of late years: we did not do it until we were compelled to do it.

2124. Mr. *Davison.*] When you say that pushes always will exist, do not you mean that the manufacturer and the bleacher cannot control them?—We cannot control the trade of the country; the market gets glutted, and gets relieved, and the pressure comes suddenly upon them.

2125. Mr. *Clark.*] You said that legislation would lead to the merchant giving orders; would not the easiest way of remedying that evil be to have an enactment for obliging the merchant to give his orders?—It is not in your power to say, in this sort of way, that if we cannot get goods delivered by a certain time, we must send them by the following vessel; that is the fault, probably, of the merchant delaying in sending out his orders; but it will be most absurd to compel the merchant to buy goods, whether he chooses or not.

2126. Would it not prevent the necessity for legislation with regard to the trade if there is any legislation with regard to compelling the merchant to give a certain number of clear days from the date of the order?—I think it would be the most impolitic act that the Legislature of the country ever did, because improvements are going on from day to day, and from week to week, with regard not only to machinery, but with regard to the various processes used in the manufacture.

2127. Do not you think that it is impossible for the bleacher to do so?—In many cases; upon the other hand, the bleacher, if he takes the proper time, can do the work better; but it is often put off. We do not know what is the case of the bleachers, nor do they know how we are situated.

2128. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do not you think that a legislation that would operate alike upon both parties, both being placed under different circumstances of pressure, would be more fair?—If you can have a principle that would work. There is great difficulty in legislating at all; but I think that the more it is kept within limits the better.

2129. Mr. *Kirk.*] With regard to the Irish linen bleaching; are you in the habit of making up Irish linen in your establishment?—We are not in the habit of making it up, but we are in the habit of buying it.

2130. Do not you, in that case, send over an order, and do not you make the contract either with the party at Manchester, who gives the order to the Irish bleacher on the other side of the Channel, or direct to the Irish bleacher, as the case may be?—Yes.

2131. Are you very particular as to the strictness of the time you give them?—We give them according to circumstances. Most of the Irish linen bleachers have stocks of goods; they do not merely bleach; they are merchants; and we presume that if we have an order that we want to be executed, that the bleacher may have the goods ready for finishing, and we send the order, saying that we want the goods; if they say that they cannot deliver them, we have no alternative but to wait, or to cancel the order, if the vessel is going out at once.

2132. Is not this the usual course, that if you send over to an Irish linen bleacher an order for a thousand pieces of a certain article, if he has it of his own property for the process of bleaching, he will say, I will try to have them, or I will endeavour to have them; or, I will have them positively?—That is quite correct.

2133. And does not it naturally happen that he will work extra time for the purpose of meeting the order?—It is quite possible.

2134. If the people in his making-up rooms work until seven or eight o'clock at night, do you think it would be right and proper to restrict him as to hours, while you leave the merchant and manufacturer at liberty?—In all businesses there must be exceptional cases; but when those exceptional cases give rise to any great evil, then

then it may be necessary, probably, for the Legislature to interfere, and to endeavour to remedy the evil. I think it is quite likely, in the case stated, that there should be some latitude allowed.

2135. Supposing that people who worked in this establishment make no more complaints of the hours than your people do, do you think that it is necessary, because the English workpeople are included in the Bill, that therefore the Irish should be included in the same law?—It may not be; but if there are females employed in Ireland, I think it is very desirable that females, who have not the same constitutions as men, should be limited to a certain given time; and also that young children should be prohibited to a certain extent; but as to grown-up men and grown-up women, I think it is a nice question to interfere with regard to their position.

2136. I think you stated before, when you were asked as to that part of the factory system which enabled masters or employers to take persons into their employment under some certain age, that you did not wholly approve of it?—I think it would be better if those young persons were taken in at an age which would allow time for them to get their education before they went into the factory. They work half the day, or whatever the proportion may be, and then they are sent to the school jaded, and unfit for education; and I say that these children should go to school, for I am sure that it will be better if their energies were directed to the school, and that they should do no work until after they had been at school.

2137. Therefore do you think that it would be better that no child should be allowed to do any description of labour, or that the course of labour should be regulated, until they were at least 12 years of age?—I do not know the precise time; but it should be when they have finished their education.

2138. Do not they want time to get physical strength and mental improvement?—Quite so.

2139. Mr. *Butt.*] It has been stated to this Committee that, upon the whole, although what you have said was desirable, it was better to allow the children to be sent to work, with a provision that they should be educated at the same time, because otherwise, instead of receiving education, they would be neglected entirely: what is your opinion as to that?—I think that that would not be at all the working of it. We find parents now, the moment the child is capable of getting 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, send him from school to get that 2*s.* 6*d.*, or whatever it may be. That does not apply altogether to the factory, because a boy may get work as an errand boy, or anything else, and that is just one of the great difficulties of carrying any legislative improvement. But my impression is that it would not work in the way stated in the question; that the children would not be sent to school. I think that if they were not taken into the factory, they would be kept longer at school; because parents, if they have not the same facility of getting employment for them which brings in some remuneration for their service, will send them to school.

2140. The opinion of the witness to whom I referred just now was, that it would be better for them to be sent to school, because it would secure their attendance for that time; do you agree with this opinion?—I say, it is better to get imperfect education than none, if the parents will not educate them. But I say that it would be much better if they employed their whole energies as long as their education was going on. What I say is, that the parents are much more alive to the benefits of education than they were formerly.

2141. Do you think that a legislative prohibition upon children being employed under a particular age would tend to promote education?—I think it would rather promote education. That would be my view of the matter.

2142. Of course, including in the condition of his being employed, his being sent to school?—Yes; including in the condition of his being employed, his being sent to school for a longer time.

2143. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Are the Committee to understand, that in the case of the boys employed in the bleach-works, you would rather legislate so as to exclude them altogether from labour, than give them this half employment, and send them to school?—Yes; I would rather improve the time, say from 10 to 12; I would rather finish their education first.

2144. Have you ever considered what effect that prohibition would have upon the circumstances of the families of the working classes?—I think it would produce great hardship in the case of many widows.

 2145. Would

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2145. Would you think, under these circumstances, the Legislature is justified in interfering with private rights between a parent and a child?—The Legislature have interfered. It would be better, if it were not necessary, that they should interfere; but it is a question of degree; and my impression would be, that it would be better for them to remain at school a longer time.

2146. Is not it the case in the manufacturing districts generally that the sons of manufacturers are taken from school at a very early period?—You find that all parties connected with education in Manchester state that the master manufacturers do not keep their sons long enough at school.

2147. Do you think that the principle operating in that class should not be allowed to operate in the case of the lower classes?—Yes; but I think that applies to the higher branches of education. Take any of our educational establishments in Manchester, Owen's College, or the grammar school, for instance; you see that even in these establishments they complain very much that the boys are not allowed to remain longer at school.

2148. Can you state what is the reason why the parent in that case withdraws his son so early from school?—The reasons are two; one is, of course, that in many cases the parent says, "I do not want to give my boy much of a classical education; I shall put him to business as soon as possible;" and another case of a man who wants to get his son educated properly, says, "I will not educate my son at Manchester."

2149. Does not that arise from the opinion entertained among many manufacturers that a highly educated youth is unfit for business?—It depends upon what you mean him for. If you say that it is necessary to send young men to Oxford or Cambridge, I would say that it is not necessary. Parties may have an impression, of what they call education, giving a boy a fine classical education, and so on; but it appears to me that the great advantage in educating a young man is to get him to think; the great difficulty with young men is to make them think. The master says, "I have made my fortune without Latin and Greek, and my son can do the same;" but he should remember that it is not the Latin and Greek which is useful; it is the making the boy think.

2150. If he has a right to exercise his control in the education of his child, why should we prevent the inferior man from having the same liberty?—I would protect the working man. I would say to him, "It is for your interest to educate your child."

2151. May not the circumstances of the family really call for the education of their children?—It may; but there are now so many educational establishments, that there is no difficulty in getting a boy educated.

2152. Mr. *Kirk*.] Would not your feeling be, that no child should be employed in any manufactory if he could not, before he were admitted to his employment, read fluently?—Certainly. I remember, with regard to education, that when I came to Manchester many years ago, of the men that came to our establishments, the exception was, the man who could write his name; it was almost invariably the case that a man put his mark. The exception now is, the man who cannot write; all write now; they are compelled to write; parents find it desirable to give their children an education, so that they can write and read.

2153. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Has not that improvement which you have just pointed out taken place without legislation?—Clearly.

William Scott, Esquire, called in; and Examined.

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2154. *Chairman*.] WILL you be kind enough to tell the Committee what your occupation is?—I am a Manufacturer.

2155. I believe you gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, three years ago?—Yes.

2156. Has your attention subsequently to that time been directed to the case of the bleachers, the case which this Committee has been appointed to look into?—I have occasionally made inquiries, and the result of those inquiries is to confirm the opinions which I gave in the first instance.

2157. You have seen nothing since you gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere to alter the opinion you then gave?—Not at all, but rather to confirm it in every respect.

2158. Are the Committee to understand that your opinion, on the whole, was not unfavourable to shortening the hours of labour in bleach-works?—Exactly.

2159. Will

2159. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee the reasons upon which you, as a manufacturer, came to that conclusion?—I think I have stated my reasons in the report of Mr. Tremenheere; but if the Committee will ask me any particular question, I shall be glad to answer it.

2160. You have heard the various objections which have been made on the part of the trade to any legislative interference whatever?—Yes.

2161. Are you of opinion that any of those objections are so well founded as to justify the Legislature in not interfering?—No; I think that the interference on the part of the Legislature, to a certain extent, would be for the benefit of all parties concerned, both manufacturers and merchants, and bleachers, and all parties concerned under them.

2162. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee to what extent you yourself think the interference ought to be carried?—I should think to the extent of an hour or two per day longer than the factory people have; I would give them a little latitude of an hour, or two hours; I have not considered that subject, but I think that there should be some interference on the part of the Legislature, and I think it would work well for all; and I think that when it should come into operation, if it were well considered, we should be scarcely sensible of it; I think that we should all then adapt ourselves to the altered circumstances; the merchant, when necessary, giving the order earlier to the manufacturer and the bleacher.

2163. You heard Mr. Barbour's evidence before this Committee?—Yes, I heard all of it.

2164. Speaking practically yourself, as a manufacturer, do you think, *mutatis mutandis*, that the same reason which induced him to speak favourably of legislative interference, as a merchant, would induce you to speak favourably of legislative interference as a manufacturer?—Certainly; I agree with most of Mr. Barbour's evidence.

2165. Mr. *Butt*.] Supposing that they increased the price of bleaching 10 per cent., do you think that that would have any serious effect upon trade in the goods?—No, I do not think it would.

2166. What would you take the average value of a piece of unbleached cloth at?—At 6*s*. 6*d*.

2167. The bleaching of that would be 9*d*., which would make 7*s*. 3*d*.?—Yes.

2168. Ten per cent. upon the bleaching would be 1*d*.?—Yes.

2169. So that 10 per cent. added to the cost of the bleaching would be an increase in the price of the same goods from 7*s*. 3*d*. to 7*s*. 4*d*. a piece?—Yes.

2170. In your opinion, as a merchant and manufacturer, would that increase of price interfere with the exportation of your goods?—Not at all.

2171. Are you employed extensively as a manufacturer?—Yes.

2172. Do you think that shortening the hours in the way that is proposed would add as much as 10 per cent. to the cost of bleaching?—No, I do not.

2173. *Chairman*.] Will you state to the Committee what the foreign markets are to which you are in the habit of shipping goods?—We do not ship any goods ourselves, but we produce them for the merchants, either by manufacturing or buying from other manufacturers; we send to all markets, more or less; there is scarcely any market in the world to which we do not send.

2174. Mr. *Cheetham*.] In saying that the addition of 10 per cent. to the cost would not make any addition to the price, have you ever compared the result as to foreign competition?—No; but 10 per cent. upon the bleaching is so slight, that I do not see that it would make any difference.

2175. Are you acquainted with the circumstances in Belgium?—No, I am not.

2176. Supposing there was a difference of 2½ per cent. between one bleacher and the other, would not one get a greater amount of orders than the other?—Yes, provided the work was the same; but you can very seldom find two bleachers whose work could be sold at 2½ per cent. difference.

2177. Assuming that they both competed upon the same terms, would not the one taking 2½ per cent. less than the other gain all the orders?—There are other things to be taken into account besides the price in bleaching; the quality of the work; the quantities a bleacher can do, and regularity of delivery.

2178. Assuming that both could supply the goods by the prescribed time, would not the one offering 2½ per cent. less than his neighbour obtain the order?—As a general rule, he would.

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2179. So that even 2½ per cent. is an object to the merchant?—Of course it is, everything else being alike.

2180. Much more is the 10 per cent.?—Yes, of course.

2181. So that if by any legislative interference the cost of bleaching were raised to 10 per cent. over what it is now, to that extent it would be objected to by the merchant?—Of course it would.

2182. Mr. *Butt.*] The result of that would be that the merchant would pay 10 *d.* for that for which he now pays 9 *d.*; 1*d.* would be taken from his pocket that he would rather keep in it?—Yes.

2183. Suppose the merchant reimbursed himself by putting 1 *d.* upon the price of goods, would that seriously affect your market in foreign countries?—No, I think not.

2184. Would it affect it at all?—No, I think not.

2185. When you were examined by Mr. Tremenheere you said that "the work would be better done, and probably with less damaged cloth, and less break-down of machinery, because the operatives would be better able to attend to their work;" are you of that opinion still?—Yes, certainly.

2186. Did you also say that "there would be less running the steam engine at a great loss for small pushing orders"?—Yes.

2187. Then it would be a protection to the bleacher himself?—I think it would be better for the bleacher, as well as the operative, the merchant and the manufacturer.

2188. Have you been able, from personal observation as well as general knowledge, to form an opinion as to how the restriction of labour in the Factory Act has worked?—I hear very little objection to the restrictions.

2189. Is not it now the general opinion of the masters that it works well?—Yes, I think so.

2190. Do you think that the restriction of the hours of work of women and children would at all raise the price of bleaching?—No, I do not think it would.

2191. By the use of improved machinery?—Yes, and by one thing or another.

2192. I think that in your opinion, to bleacher, merchant, and operative, the restriction in the hours of labour upon that plan would be useful?—Certainly; my opinion of that is, that if it is not, the Factory Act ought to be repealed.

2193. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Then do you advocate restriction in the case of the bleachers because it has been made operative upon the factories. Because a certain class of the community have been legislated upon, would you extend that to the bleachers?—No.

2194. What is the cause of the irregular hours on the part of the bleacher; is not it the limited time which is given to execute the orders?—In five cases out of six, it is because, being allowed to work any length of time, they will make pushes; if one bleacher will not, another will. A manufacturer or commission agent will be obliged to give longer time when they find they cannot get it done.

2195. Does not the pressure in the first instance come from the merchant or the commission agent?—Yes.

2196. That is the cause which brings the master bleacher to his irregular hours?—Yes.

2197. Are you aware what is the rule in cases where the bleacher does not complete the goods even in the restricted way in which he is now obliged to work?—There are no particular rules; they only make agreements with the bleacher that he will get up a certain quantity of goods by a certain day, and if he does not do it they lose the sale of the goods; perhaps that would give them a claim upon him in consequence, if he made a specific bargain to get them up by a particular time; but if the bleacher keeps the goods beyond the regular time, the proper way is, not to send him any more, but to send them to the bleacher who will do them.

2198. Have not there been instances within your own observation in which the bleacher failing to deliver his goods within the prescribed time has been subjected either to penalties or damages?—Yes.

2199. And though in order to complete them within the limited time he may have worked irregular hours?—Yes.

2200. So that pressure is laid upon him, and it is not his own act or deed?—I dare say that may be the case; I have not known of such a case coming under my notice, but it is probable that it may be so; he may have undertaken to do a thing that he cannot do.

2201. In your own case do not you generally lay down a positive rule as to the time in which the bleacher shall deliver your goods?—We endeavour to ascertain what is the regular time to give, whether 8, 10, 12, or 14 days, as the case may be, and we have an understanding with the bleachers, and if they cannot send them up in that time they must not take the goods; they must say we cannot get the goods up in a given time, and our remedy is to go to another bleacher.

2202. And of course, in order to secure your business, the bleacher is anxious to meet your time?—Yes.

2203. Have you any rule as to time in your establishment?—For different classes of goods a certain number of days are required; but of course it is the business of the parties who give out the goods to the bleacher to know what he can do; they know all the different finishes which can be done in seven days, and which in nine days, ten days, and so on, and it is their business not to send goods without a certainty of their being done in a given time. He should have an understanding with the bleacher to have the goods done regularly. He will not know his business if he sends the goods without knowing when they will be returned.

2204. I think you do business with Mr. Bridson?—Yes.

2205. Is not your rule with regard to that house to limit them to nine days?—I think it is, with certain classes of goods.

2206. They failing to complete the goods in the time, do not you debit them for the loss you sustain by their holding the goods over?—I think the case you refer to is this: they do some goods for us regularly; they undertook to do them in 9 or 10 days, and they took four, or five, or six weeks; and the consequence was we lost a considerable amount of interest on a great quantity of goods besides their own, five or ten times the amount that was in their hands; they broke the bargain to send up the goods in 9 or 10 days. We say, "This is a breaking of your bargain, and you must suffer for it; we have incurred a specific amount of loss; we send you the invoice of it."

2207. Perhaps this document may refresh your memory as to the particulars of that [*a paper being shown to the Witness*]?—That is perfectly correct.

EXTRACT from Messrs. *Jones Brothers & Co.*'s Letter of January 23, 1856.

"WE cannot afford to have our goods kept in this manner; but before taking any steps for the bleaching and finishing of our cambrics and jaconets elsewhere, we wish to know, in writing, from your firm, whether you will undertake to put our cambrics, jaconets, &c., into work as you receive them, and deliver them back in 10 days, and occasionally make a push for three or four days."

Gentlemen, Manchester, 24 March 1856.

WE enclose invoice of interest we have charged you with, consequent upon your not sending up our goods in time. This is only a portion of our loss, as we have many goods in stock that should have been forwarded with those you have out. We have so repeatedly told you that we will not have our goods kept beyond the time, nine days, that you engaged to send them up in, that we have no other resource, for the time being, but this.

Yours respectfully,
Jones Brothers & Co.
G. Watts.

Messrs. Bridson & Co., Bolton,

We have not reckoned the deliveries of the 14th, 15th, which are due to day.

12, York-street, late 4, Mosley-street, Manchester, March 24, 1856.

Messrs. R. Bridson, Son & Co., Bolton.

Bought of Jones Brothers & Co.,
Spinners and Manufacturers, Bedford New Mills, near Leigh.

To loss of interest, &c., on V. lawns, &c., not sent up in time - - £. 3. 14. 7.

Cash less 1½ per cent.

2208. Were not Messrs. Bridson & Co. debited with interest for delaying the goods beyond nine days?—Yes.

2209. How would legislation remedy the state of things with regard to a case like that of Messrs. Bridson?—The bleacher must not break his promise; the bleacher must not make a promise that he cannot perform.

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2210. Could not a certain proper restraint on the part of the buyer insure ample time to the bleacher?—Yes. I dare say that is not a solitary case, for, I believe there may have been 10 or 12 previously, and this was a claim actually; We say to the bleacher, We will send you so much work regularly, provided you let us have it in the nine days; the busy season comes on, and some of the other manufacturers send them work, and they put ours aside, in this instance, for 14 days beyond the nine days.

2211. And so you tie them to a specific rule?—Yes; in this particular instance we gave them a day more than they asked; they asked eight days. Under pressure a bleacher will undertake to do goods in seven or six days, as the case may be, but we gave them a day longer than they required; and yet we have repeated instances of goods being kept back, simply because they had work from other parties, and they wanted to keep ours as well. Now our remedy would have been to say, "If you cannot do this work we must send it where we can get it done."

2212. Was there in this particular instance a pressure upon you equally as strong as upon the bleacher in having his goods completed?—We took as much time as possible; the pressure upon us was, that we lost the amount of interest upon 1,000 *l.* worth of goods.

2213. So that there was a pressure upon you as upon the bleacher himself; there was a pressure upon you to have the goods completed in nine days?—Yes.

2214. Would not it be fair and equitable that any legislative enactment which should operate upon the bleachers, in order to secure them the longer time, and prevent irregular hours, should extend also to your house, in compelling you to give a specific time to the bleacher?—No; I think, with Mr. Barbour, that it would be absurd.

2215. Are not the cases alike, the pressure acting upon you in the one case, and upon the bleacher in the other; should not the Legislature require you to give a certain number of days?—No; it is optional with us, when we take the order, to say whether we will do it in a month or two months, and it is our business to know whether we can get the goods finished in time; it is our fault if we make a mistake; if we cannot have the things done when they ought to be ready, the merchant goes into the market and buys the goods, and debits us with the difference he may have to pay.

2216. Is not there a great difference between bleaching and the manufacture of yarn, as regards the power of holding back?—Yes.

2217. If the manufacturer or spinner has produced an article, he can lay it by till it is wanted?—Yes.

2218. Does not that secure a regularity of employment, which does not exist in the case of the bleachers?—Yes; but the commission agent and merchant will probably keep a stock of bleached goods if he found a difficulty in getting them bleached.

2219. Why does not he do that now?—Because he can push the bleacher to any extent.

2220. Do not you want legislation to remedy both your own dealings and the bleacher's too?—I do not think it will do any harm, as it would be inoperative in our case.

2221. Mr. *Kirk*.] Would that have the effect of regulating your dealings with the bleachers?—Yes; it would come to this, those who made delivery of the goods most regularly would have the most attention from the bleacher.

2222. It is in evidence before this Committee that those bleachers who work short hours now get less to do as compared with those who work long hours; is that because they work shorter hours?—No; perhaps it is because their work may not be so good as other bleachers who work long hours.

2223. Did not you state here that shorter hours would be likely to improve the quality of the bleaching, because the man would be better able to do his work within those hours?—Yes; of course, if an operative works 12 or 14 or 16 hours a day, he cannot work as well as if he worked 10 hours a day.

2224. It is stated before us, that if they work 10 ½ hours a day, they get less to do than those who work longer; a bleacher himself gives that evidence; can you explain it?—There may be several causes why that is the case; he may not be doing as good work as his neighbours.

2225. Did not you say that he would do it better?—He may not have the machinery for doing the work that his neighbour has.

2226. He

2226. He states that he has similar machinery, and he has not employment for the machinery eight or nine hours a day?—He may not do his work so well, or he may charge more for it.

2227. He states that he charges the same price as his neighbours?—I do not know how to account for that.

2228. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do you recollect a particular case in your business with reference to an order being required to be executed, where, in order to enforce its rapid execution, you despatched a messenger with directions that he was not to leave the premises till the goods were completed?—Yes; that is very probable.

2229. Was not there a pressure upon you in that case?—Yes; we had undertaken to do them at a certain time.

2230. You must throw the pressure upon the bleacher?—Yes.

2231. Did not that take place subsequently to your giving your evidence to Mr. Tremenheere?—It is very likely.

2232. Do you think that merely putting a legislative restraint upon the bleacher will cure the evil, unless you put one upon the merchant also?—What I might do for my own individual interest in that instance may not be for the interest of the community if it were done regularly. It may be my individual interest to get the order executed in the time, and therefore I make all the push I can.

2233. Would not the same motive impel other merchants and agents?—Yes, it might; but the fact of our being able to get the pushing work done continually, only leads us to ask for more: it being done, we depend more upon getting it done whenever we are pressed for time.

2234. Would not that motive still be in existence, even after legislation, as before?—Yes; but if we should know that we could not get the pushing done, we should not promise it. We should only promise what we could do, and the merchant would be satisfied with that.

2235. Supposing the bleacher, after a legislative enactment is passed, should dismiss the young women and children to whom the legislation referred, and should carry on his work by adults; and supposing that that bleacher could do his work quicker than the others, would not you prefer that bleacher?—We are not in favour of pushing work. We know that the goods will not be so well done, and we know that the bleacher will not serve us so well if he is hurried, and therefore we give him, as a general rule, a regular fixed time mutually agreed upon.

2236. Was not your agreement with Bridson & Co. for nine days?—In that particular instance to which reference has been made.

2237. Supposing that by legislation those nine days were extended to 12 or 14, and that yet, by the non-employment of young people, Bridson & Co. could only carry on their work as before by adults, and complete it in nine days, three to five days earlier than other bleachers, would not they still, having that advantage, retain your orders?—Of course they would.

2238. In that case, would not the result of legislation be to continue and perpetuate long hours?—I dare say the bleacher employing adults only would have an advantage over those who did not; but that would have its effect; the limiting the hours of women and children in bleach-works to 12 or 14, or whatever it may be, would have an effect upon the hours of the adult work.

2239. Does not that show the existing difficulty of legislation as regards bleach-works, as compared with factories?—No; you may work adults in factories as well as in bleach-works.

2240. Are not you aware that the factory is much more closely identified with the labour of women and children?—Yes.

2241. So that when those are withdrawn, the adults are of very little service at all?—Yes, of course.

2242. Is that the case to the same extent with the bleach-works?—Perhaps not; I am not able to give an opinion upon that point.

2243. Mr. *Butt.*] Are you able to form an opinion whether the effect of shortening the hours of those women and children will be to cause their labour to be discontinued?—I should think it would in some cases; but I am not at all able to say.

2244. As to the amount of inconvenience likely to ensue to the trade from legislative interference; at present there is a physical limitation to the power of the bleachers to do work in a certain time?—Yes.

2245. Is not there also a legislative limitation from their being prevented from working on Sundays?—Yes.

 2246. Would

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2246. Would not every argument as to the inconvenience to the trade from shortening the hours of work that is brought forward against the Bill for shortening the hours of labour, equally apply to the working on Sundays?—Certainly; if a bleacher can stop his work at eight he can stop it at six.

2247. Does not the prohibition against working on Sunday oblige the merchant to give his orders two days sooner?—Of course.

2248. Might not that interfere with an order being taken for foreign goods just as much as if the hours of work each day were shortened?—Yes.

2249. *Chairman.*] Are you conversant at all with the arguments which have been used during the progress of the factory dispute?—Yes.

2250. Did you hear anything of the danger of foriegn competition if the hours of labour in the factories were shortened?—Yes, a good deal; in fact, most people were afraid that we should suffer from foreign competition.

2251. Have those fears been realized?—Not at all.

2252. Is there any more apprehension respecting the bleach-works that those fears will be realized, than the event has proved to be the case with respect to factories?—No, certainly not.

2253. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Has foreign competition with the factories been increased in a greater ratio since the passing of that Bill than it did before?—I have no doubt it has.

2254. Is that competition with those foreign countries where the governments have no restriction upon labour?—I have no doubt it is in many instances.

2255. Are you aware that at the present moment whilst there is a considerable amount of short time in your district there is no short time working on the Continent?—No, I am not.

2256. Mr. *Davison.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that you thought the factory hours were not applicable to the bleaching and dying trade, and that you thought they should be extended an hour and a half or two hours?—I have not given that part of the subject much consideration; but it appears to me that there is a distinction between the manufacture of goods in a factory and the bleaching of goods in bleach-works, if the subject is fairly considered, and that bleach and dye-works should be allowed to work one-and-a-half to two hours per day longer than factories.

2257. *Chairman.*] Would not you say that an Act, something about midway between the Factory Act and the Print Works Act, should be adopted?—Yes, something of that kind.

2258. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Are you aware that subsequent to the legislation upon factories this question of legislation upon the bleach-works was entertained, and evidence was given upon the subject?—No, I am not aware.

2259. And that the proposal for legislation was, after that evidence, withdrawn?—No, I am not.

2260. Are you practically acquainted with bleaching in its various operations?—No.

2261. Or with the class of persons employed in it?—No, I am not.

2262. Do you merely say that because you hear no complaints from the factory owners of legislation, you think that the same principle might be applied in this case?—Yes.

2263. Are you not of opinion with Mr. Barbour that such legislation is always to be avoided, if possible?—I object to legislation with respect to labour, but I think we cannot get on without it.

2264. Then you agree with him that such attempts to legislate between the employer and the employed are to be looked at with great jealousy?—Yes, particularly with regard to those who cannot take care of themselves, say women and children.

2265. Did you state that opinion to Mr. Tremenheere?—I do not know that I did.

2266. Have you read the evidence which you gave to Mr. Tremenheere, as reported in his report?—Yes, I read it over this morning.

2267. Does it include the whole that you stated to him?—I should say it does.

2268. Mr. *Butt.*] May we take the statement of Mr. Tremenheere as a fair representation of your opinion as expressed to him?—Yes, it is very fair.

2269. Mr. *Cheetham.*] With regard to the finishers and packers-up of Manchester, do you agree with the opinion of the operative who was examined the other day here before this Committee, that the Legislature ought to act upon all those establishments, as well as upon the packing-rooms in the bleach-works?—I think

I think that where there is calendering and making up simply, such as the bleacher or the dyer does, they ought to be included.

2270. As employing the same class of labour?—Yes.

2271. Would you make a distinction between the calenderer of Manchester and the mere packer?—Yes; but I think it will be difficult to draw the line; generally speaking, the people employed in warehouses are quite able to take care of themselves, there being very few women and children.

2272. Would you say that only adults are employed in packing the goods at the warehouse?—There are not many boys now; and that is the distinction between the factory operative and the Manchester warehouseman; the Manchester warehouseman is quite able to take care of himself; but his employer does not desire to employ him above a certain number of hours a day; he knows that he can get more out of him by working him eight or ten hours than by working him 12 and 14 hours a day, and he can get his work better done.

2273. Is not it now some years ago when, without any legislation, the Saturday half-holiday was established in many warehouses at Manchester?—Yes.

2274. Was not it done by agreement between the warehouseman and the employer?—Yes.

2275. Is it your opinion that any attempt to do away with it would be at once promptly met by resistance on the part of the warehousemen?—No doubt.

2276. What is your opinion as to the possibility of the operative bleacher, if he desired short hours, taking the same course as the warehouseman?—The operative bleachers all work by the piece, I fancy; of course if he has only 10 hours' work a day he gets 10 hours' wages; if he has 16 hours he gets 16; that appears to be an inducement for him to continue, and it is rather in favour of long hours: every man likes getting great wages whether he works long hours or not.

2277. Is it your opinion that long hours are partly the result of a voluntary decision on the part of the workman?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

2278. And that they are not exactly compulsory on the part of the masters?—I fancy the operatives are generally rather pleased with them, because they get greater wages; I am aware that in the warehouses the people are paid by the month or the week, and if they work 10 hours they do not get more than if they work eight.

2279. Has not Mr. Jones, your partner, a cotton factory in the neighbourhood of Bolton?—Yes.

2280. Is it within your knowledge that any of his workpeople have left the mill to go to the bleach-works?—Not that I know of.

2281. Do you know whether any young women employed in the bleach-works have left in consequence of the long hours, and have gone to Mr. Jones's mill, in consequence of the shorter hours there?—I am not aware of it; it might be the case, but it is very doubtful whether I should hear of it.

2282. Are you aware that in the neighbourhood of those bleach-works there are cotton works conducted under legislative restriction?—Yes.

2283. So that if the people object to the long hours, they have other means of employment?—Yes.

2284. Are you aware whether they avail themselves of those means?—I think the operatives are as much to blame as the masters; they like the long hours on account of the extra pay.

2285. You do not concur in the aspersions that some people throw upon the employers of labour?—Not at all.

2286. Is not your desire to restrict the parents?—I think it is the parent that requires legislative interference, because, while he can get his 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week for the child, it is a great inducement to him to send him to the bleach-works.

2287. Supposing the legislation applied only to the bleachers in Lancashire and Cheshire, in what position would that place them as regards the bleachers in Scotland and Ireland?—I fancy the bleachers in Scotland and Ireland do altogether different work to the bleachers in Lancashire and Cheshire, and my opinion certainly is, that if the thing were properly regulated, we should be better able to compete with those in Ireland and Scotland; even if we had the proposed Act we should do the work better, and quite as cheaply as now, in my opinion.

2288. You do not think that evil results would follow to the Manchester bleachers and dyers from excluding from the operation of the Act Scotland and Ireland?

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Ireland?—I do not know what it might lead to; they might try the Manchester finishes, but I do not think that they would be able to compete with them successfully.

2289. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are you aware that the process in the west of Scotland is precisely similar to that of Lancashire and Cheshire?—I dare say the same processes may be carried on, but I fancy the finishes are different. The English finish might suit the merchant, and the Scotch or the Irish finish might not suit him at all; I think they should all be put upon the same footing, certainly. Of course the Lancashire bleacher would say, if you permit the Irish bleacher to work 18 hours a day, or as long hours as he likes, he may be taking my business, because he can regularly make pushes of any kind.

2290. Mr. *Davison.*] So far as Ireland is concerned it is the bleaching of linen, and you are speaking of the bleaching of cotton?—Yes.

2291. Are you aware that in the bleaching of linen they do not employ children, and that there are no children employed?—I am not able to say.

2292. Supposing that to be the fact, is it your opinion that the limitation should extend to Ireland as well as to England?—I am scarcely able to form an opinion.

2293. Mr. *Butt.*] Is it your opinion that very often the overwork on the part of the bleacher is caused by so short a time being given for the order?—Yes.

2294. Might not it arise from another cause, namely, that he undertook to do more than he should have taken?—Yes, of course.

2295. From which cause do you think it more frequently arises?—There are a variety of causes why the bleacher finds he cannot bring up his work in the time he promised, over which perhaps he has no control.

2296. Supposing the bleacher to take more orders than his works will fairly enable him to do, may not that cause him to work overhours?—Yes.

2297. Does not it often proceed from that?—Certainly.

2298. Is the overwork in a bleacher's establishment oftener caused by the merchant pressing him at too short a date, or by his own taking too much work?—I do not know the bleacher's business; but I think that very often our goods are delayed, because other people's are pushing to be done.

2299. I see that in your report to Mr. Tremenheere you suggested that the limitation of labour should not take place at once; that for the first year the works should be reduced from six to eight; the second, six to seven; the third, six to six; is not that so?—It appeared to me that if that was done, any alteration would be better done gradually, and that the bleacher's business could accommodate itself gradually to the change without any particular loss.

2300. Are you of the same opinion still?—I am not prepared to say whether it should be 12 hours or 11, but I think that there should be a change. I am in favour of a change.

2301. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You were asked whether the fault was not due more to the folly of the bleacher in undertaking work, when he knows he has not time sufficient to do it, than to the merchant; do you remember this letter, written by your firm: "Manchester, 26th March 1856. Messrs. Ridgway, Bridson & Co., Bolton. Gentlemen, We shall be much obliged by your saying if you are still willing to perform your promise to us, 24th April 1855, viz. that you would send up our goods in eight days, as a rule, and never to exceed nine days"?—I dare say it would be so.

2302. Is not this the principle of the operation of an establishment like your own, that you want to have a rule, and the rule in most cases to be as limited in its duration as possible?—Of course.

2303. So that the pressure is laid upon the bleacher, in the first instance?—Yes; in Bridson's case, we were first given to understand that they never would exceed eight days; but they gave us a great deal of trouble in not sending up our goods according to that arrangement; afterwards they promised never to exceed nine days, which promise they wilfully and repeatedly broke, without informing us when we sent them cloth, that they could not deliver in nine days; in short, they kept their promise just so long as it suited their convenience to do.

2304. Are you aware that seven days is the shortest period in which they can complete such a class of goods as yours?—The bleaching is done in less time than that frequently; but it is done at the expense of the bleachers, with an extra amount of labour or drugs.

2305. Did not those eight days, of course, involve the regular long hours that you speak of?—I dare say it does.

2306. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is not it the fact that where goods are bleached very rapidly there are necessarily intervals of labour; that they are first put through one process, and

and then through another process, and that those who put them through the first process must wait till that process is repeated?—Yes.

2307. And that therefore there is not merely a certain amount of cost in the extra stuff, but a certain amount of cost in the loss of labour?—Yes, I dare say there is.

John Slagg, Esq., called in; and Examined.

2308. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Manufacturer of Cotton, and a Commission Agent?—Yes, I am; and a commission agent for the sale of cloths.

2309. Your occupation I suppose gives you considerable opportunities of knowing how the people employed in bleach-works are affected by the present system?—Yes, considerable; I have not so much as Messrs. Scott or Mr. Barbour, but we have considerable dealings with bleachers.

2310. Have you had your attention recently called to the subject-matter before this Committee?—I have.

2311. Will you state to the Committee what is your opinion upon the proposed legislative interference with respect to the hours of labour in bleach-works?—I must first observe, that the report of the conversation that I had with the commissioner, Mr. Tremenheere, though perhaps strictly correct, is not altogether what I said; at least it is not strong enough. I remember I stated to him very distinctly that I had a strong objection to any legislative interference with the labour market; that the question would arise, whether the Legislature should interfere with women and children; but that, in my opinion, it was a question whether the remedy might not be greater than the disease; and I think, on reading my evidence, that he does not state it so strongly.

2312. Would you wish, as it were, to supplement what appears in this blue book by any fresh observation?—No; but I would express myself in stronger language than he uses. I am considerably engaged in a factory, and, of course, I have felt the operation of the Factory Bill for many years.

2313. Would you have the kindness to state to the Committee whether you are in favour of legislation being applied to the hours of labour in bleach-works to affect women and young persons?—I am not sufficiently conversant with the matter to state whether I am, but my feeling is not to interfere.

2314. Will you have the kindness to tell the Committee whether that feeling on your part arises from general principles, or from your belief that it is not required in the case which we are now discussing?—Perhaps my feeling would be upon general principles.

2315. Did you hear the last witness say that, upon general principles, he was opposed to interference, but that he thought in this particular instance the evil was so great that it ought to be met by legislative interference?—Yes. I cannot say that it would be so; there are, certainly, many evils attendant upon working these long hours in bleach-works; I can say that.

2316. Will you tell the Committee what those evils are?—There are the late hours for young children, which interfere with their physical powers chiefly, and prevent them from getting an education; and then there is another evil, which perhaps might be named; I think that the turning out of the young people at all hours of the night and morning may lead to little irregularities, which would otherwise be avoided. That is the extent of my objection.

2317. Are the Committee to understand that you think that the present system deteriorates the physical strength of the young children; that it prevents them obtaining a due amount of education, and that it tends to moral evils?—I should say so.

2318. Supposing that, in your opinion, legislative interference ought to be applied to any trades or professions, do you know a trade or profession to which it might be more reasonably applied than the labour of those young persons and children engaged in the bleach-works?—I should say that, if the Legislature considered it necessary to interfere with the factories, it is necessary to interfere with the bleach-works. I give that as my deliberate opinion, accompanied by the previous observation, that I do not consider the Legislature ought to interfere at all.

2319. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Did you state so to Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes, but more strongly than he puts it in his report.

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2320. Have you read his report of the evidence that you gave to him?—Yes, I have.

2321. This is your answer, I think: "I dislike the idea of legislative interference in matters of trade, but if a case is made out requiring it, I consider it justifiable." Is that what you said?—I do not remember saying that; of course I am not prepared to say what I said exactly.

2322. So that this report by Mr. Tremenheere of your evidence does not go to the extent that you went?—I think not.

2323. Mr. *Baxter*.] Did not you state that the women and children in bleach-works required to be protected?—I did not state that; I stated, as I did just now, that if it is necessary to interfere, as regards the factory operatives, with women and children, it is necessary to interfere with bleach-works. I consider my objection is stronger than it is stated in the report.

2324. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Is your opinion upon this question of legislative interference with bleach-works founded on the legislation in factories?—That is so.

2325. Do you mean by that that there ought to be a fair and equitable legislation in all cases where young people are employed?—The question is, whether the remedy is not greater than the disease; but I certainly feel that they should be protected, as I am a great advocate for education.

2326. Then you think that the Factory Act, which secures a certain amount of education to those who are employed, is so far valuable?—Yes; I think it raises the standard of education, at any rate.

2327. Do you think that upon that bare ground the principle ought to be extended to all classes of the population?—Yes; taken as a matter of principle, I should say, yes.

2328. So that the exemption in the case of agricultural children implies an inequality?—Decidedly; and my strong opinion is, that if you interfere with factories or bleach-works you ought to interfere with the agricultural classes.

2329. If the Legislature will not interfere with all classes, is it your opinion that it ought not to interfere with any?—Yes.

2330. You object to exceptional legislation?—Yes.

2331. Mr. *Kirk*.] Would you be of opinion that the hours of work should be prolonged after seven o'clock at night?—It is difficult to draw a line.

2332. Mr. *Butt*.] Is the Committee to understand your opinion to be, that legislative interference would always be likely to produce a greater evil than it seeks to remedy?—There is danger of it.

2333. Do not you think there is an existing evil?—I think so.

2334. Are you at all acquainted with the hours that are now worked in the bleach-works?—Yes.

2335. Are you of opinion that those hours of work are excessive?—Yes, they are very excessive, occasionally.

2336. Would you consider them injurious to the health of the children?—Yes.

2337. And interfering with their moral and intellectual culture?—I do.

2338. Therefore, if legislative interference be at all justifiable, is not a strong case made out in this case?—Yes; as I have stated before.

2339. Do you think that if, whether by legislative interference or voluntary agreement, those overhours of work were given up, it would interfere with the trade to any extent, or would inconvenience the merchant?—We should accommodate ourselves to it.

2340. Would it entail on you great inconvenience?—I do not think it would.

2341. Is it your opinion that if any legislation were adopted it would not interfere with the export trade of bleached goods?—It is difficult to say; I am an advocate for producing everything as cheaply as possible, to enable us to compete with other countries; but we generally accommodate ourselves to circumstances, as a proof of that (and perhaps some of the bleachers will remember it), about 20 years ago they raised the price of bleaching 20 per cent., and we paid it.

2342. Did you find that interfere with your business?—No; the price of bleaching was very low, and the price of the articles which they use rose very much, and they raised the price 20 per cent.; and they were able to combine, so that we had to pay it.

2343. Do you think that if the bleachers worked short hours they would be obliged to raise the price of bleaching?—Perhaps they might, in the first instance.

2344. To what extent do you think that would be?—I cannot say, because of the many valuable improvements in machinery which occur.

2345. Supposing that the bleacher stopped at six instead of working on to twelve or one, and supposing his machinery ceased to work at the same hour, do you think that 10 per cent. would be an adequate allowance for that?—I should say that that is a liberal allowance; and that if improvements took place he could reduce it to less.

2346. Have you heard the evidence which Mr. Scott gave as to the effect that a rise of price in bleaching has upon the price of goods?—Yes.

2347. Do you agree in that?—To some extent. Mr. Scott is a dealer in fine goods; 10 per cent. upon bleaching them does not affect him much; but I am connected with the lower priced goods.

2348. Will you state to the Committee what would be the effect of the bleaching upon the goods you have?—From ¾ *d.* to 1 *d.* a piece.

2349. What would be the average price of a piece?—From 6 *s.* to 8 *s.*

2350. Supposing that you are selling goods in the foreign market for 6 *s.*, and the price of bleaching be raised 10 per cent., it would raise them to 6 *s.* 1 *d.*?—Yes.

2351. Would that rise of price interfere with the sale of your goods in the foreign markets?—I should think not; of course every penny helps so far to meet the competition, for we have great competition.

2352. Would that be a rise that would affect you?—I should think not; but it is only an opinion.

2353. Mr. *Packe.*] You have been asked with regard to the employment of agricultural labour; do you know any instance where women and children are employed more than 12 hours a day in agricultural labour?—I cannot say, not being much in the country; but I think if I were to try I could remember that a little; but I cannot just from memory state it now.

2354. *Chairman.*] Does not nature pass a 10 hours' Bill as to agricultural labour?—I do not know.

2355. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I think that a question was put to you relative to education; are you aware that an attempt was made to legislate in that direction, to give the agricultural boy the advantage of it, and that such an attempt failed, as being an improper interference between the father and the child?—Yes, I think I do remember something of that; of course it would be so.

2356. If the principle is valid in that case, do not you think it is equally valid in the case of a factory?—Yes.

2357. Do you consider the present system an unfair system of legislation?—Yes; as regards factories, I think it is so.

2358. *Chairman.*] Has your attention been called to the Bills which have been brought before Parliament for the regulation of the hours in bleach-works?—I cannot say that I have read them through.

2359. Are you aware that there is no attempt to make education compulsory by those Bills?—No, I was not aware of that.

2360. Mr. *Butt.*] Would you consider that no amount of overworking of children would justify the interference of the Legislature?—That is a very strong question; I could not say so; it is a very difficult thing to say how far it should go; we, as factory occupiers, think that the Legislature has gone too far already. The first Bill did no harm; but now we say that they have gone too far.

2361. Would you go the length of saying that no overwork of the child by the parents would justify the Legislature in interfering to prevent what might occur?—I should say, that if it was proved that there was a systematic overworking of a child by its parent, the law ought to touch the parent and also the master.

2362. Then it would of course, in every case, come to a question of degree, whether the overworking was so gross as to call for legislative remedy?—Yes, and whether the remedy will be worse than the disease.

2363. You state that it requires a strong case to justify that interference?—I think it does.

2364. And that nothing but a strong case would justify it?—Yes; nothing but a strong case would justify it.

2365. Supposing that it were proved that for weeks at a time young women and boys were worked for 18 hours, barely getting two or three hours' sleep, would you consider that such an extreme case as to justify legislative interference?—Yes,

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Yes, it would require some interference; I consider that a very gross case; I know it does happen in bleach-works occasionally.

2366. Would not you consider that the parent working the child those extreme hours for the sake of gain was committing a crime?—Yes.

2367. A crime that he ought to be punished for?—Yes.

2368. If the master allowed that child to work should not you say it was a crime in the master, and that the punishment ought to extend to him?—Not quite so; I think the child's parents generally are to blame; I must observe, that among the operatives, at least from my experience, a parent will force his child to work for the sake of the gain; and that any operative would work with good will 20 hours a day for wages, and make his child work 20 hours a day for wages; therefore I think the masters ought not to bear all blame, but that a good deal is to be put upon the parents themselves.

2369. Would not you say that the greatest blame fell upon the parent, as having a greater obligation to the child?—Yes.

2370. Would not you also consider that the master who is a party to the overworking of the child for 17 or 18 hours a day for weeks successively is also guilty of a moral crime?—He is to a great extent guilty, but he is only one party to the contract, and from what I have seen as to the working class, which has been a long experience, they are quite able to take care of themselves.

2371. Are the children able to take care of themselves?—The children are not, but the parent ought to be made accountable for them.

2372. In order to hold the parent accountable, would not legislative interference be necessary?—I cannot say whether it would or not.

2373. I think you have a strong objection to legislative interference at all, but you are disposed to think that in the bleach-works occasionally things have occurred which would call for legislative interference?—If it were a systematic rule it would; but as to the legislation of the Factory Act, they legislated upon that subject, looking at what the customs of the trade were 30 or 40 years before, and, in my opinion, they legislated in great ignorance, and they ought to be cautious now.

2374. Mr. *Packe.*] Supposing the parent were to refuse that his child should go to be over-employed by the master, and that the master were to discharge the parent in consequence, do you think he ought to be restricted from doing that in future?—That would be interfering between the rights of the man producing the labour, and those of the master employing the labour; I do not know that you ought to go so far as that.

2375. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are the hours in the bleach-works so long as they used to be?—I have not been lately so much among them; I do not think they are so long as they used to be.

2376. Is it your opinion that there is a gradual improvement going on?—I think there is improvement going on among them.

2377. *Chairman.*] Is that improvement subject to interruption from occasional pushes, as they are called, or is it a permanent improvement?—I do not think that those pushes exist to the extent that some gentlemen think; I do not think they exist to a great extent, judging from my own knowledge.

2378. Would not this general improvement be subject to occasional interruptions from those pushes?—I should think it would be so.

2379. Mr. *Butt.*] To what would you attribute the long hours of work in the bleaching establishments, assuming that pushes do not occur so frequently as is thought?—Partly to competition; a desire on the part of the bleachers to secure a larger portion of the business to themselves, and partly from the necessary pushing of the buyers, or their employers; and a good deal is owing on that score, in my opinion; as far as my experience goes, with very little attention (and we do business very largely, perhaps as largely in general articles as any house), we can give time enough for the bleaching.

2380. In fact, I understand you to say, that the order to the bleacher is put off, merely because the merchants know it can be done in the time?—Very often indeed.

2381. *Chairman.*] Putting on one side for the present, all questions as to the principles of interference, do you, as a merchant and an employer of bleachers, think that the trade would not be harmed by the hours of the bleaching-works being shortened?—I should say not, or very little indeed.

2382. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you think that any child should be employed at any labour before

before he is able to read fluently ?—As an employer, and as a man, I should say, that no child should be employed in any labour until he has attained a certain education, testified by proper parties; that should have been the rule when the late Factory Act passed.

2383. Is not it within your own knowledge, that so far from there being a pressure from the master upon the workman to employ the young children, any pressure that there is, is from the parent of the child on the master ?—I should say so.

2384. Is not there a considerable amount of pressure of that sort ?—I should say there is; in the factories you find the people will perjure themselves, and call the child older than it is.

2385. Have you ever thought of the proper age at which a child should be permitted to be employed ?—There is a great difference in physical formation, so that I cannot tell; but I should say 12 or 13, as a rule.

2386. Mr. *Butt*.] Did I rightly understand you to say, that you would be an advocate for legislation for the non-employment of children before they had received an education ?—Yes, if legislation is necessary, but I should like to do without if it was possible; we are fond of the voluntary system in Manchester; we do things without legislative interference there, either as regards education or anything else.

2387. Mr. *Clark*.] Would you rather leave things to that, than legislate at all ? —I cannot say that I have weighed the thing sufficiently to answer that question.

2388. Mr. *Butt*.] At present must not the child going to the factory receive an education ?—They are obliged to send them to school part of the day.

2389. Do you think that, taking the working classes into consideration, and the way in which children are treated by their parents, it would, upon the whole, be better for the child to be in the factory, upon the condition of receiving there a partial education, than to be excluded entirely from work, with no provision for his education, except that given by the parent ?—I cannot say; but I should say that they ought to have an education before they went there, and that their time should not be divided; but that does not answer your question.

2390. Would the practical effect of prohibiting the employment of young children be likely to place them in a worse position than they are in the factory with regard to education ?—I am sorry to say that the parents do not take pains with the education of their children. If the parents would take any pains with their education, the children would be better off, because their wages have been advanced by the Factory Act; because the fewer young people there are, the higher their wages will be. If the parents did their duty, I should be content to leave it to them.

2391. Considering what you know of the habits of the working classes, would you consider that the child was better off, being allowed to work on condition that it should be partly educated, or by being left to the parents' discretion ?—I could not give an answer; I am not a very practical man,

2392. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Have you known the bleach-works for many years ?—Yes.

2393. Are you able to compare the state of the bleach-works at many years distance with their present state ?—Yes.

2394. Do you think that there are any improvements in the mode of conducting them ?—Yes; I should say great improvements.

2395. Should you say that the hours are not so long as they formerly were ?—I am fully inclined to think that they are not so long.

2396. Has the education of the children at all benefited from what it was some years ago ?—I know several establishments which have taken great pains, and I think upon the whole it is better. I think we are all better educated. The workmen themselves are better educated. There is an improvement in the master, and that begets an improvement throughout.

2397. Has not all that improvement taken place without any legislation ?—Yes.

2398. Do you think that in the bleach-works such gradual improvements might continue until the results were obtained without legislation ?—I cannot give an answer to that; we have gone on improving. Mr. Barbour I think made an observation about the porters, which I remember very well indeed, that no one could write his name formerly; and now I think there is not a man who cannot do so; they are greatly improved in education.

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2399. Is it your opinion, that in Lancashire generally, there is a growing feeling in favour of restraining the working of long hours?—I rather think there is in all classes, from the bookkeeper to the porter.

2400. Does that feeling exist in the bleach-works?—Yes, I think generally.

2401. You have stated that the prevailing feeling in the bleach-works, is a desire on the part of the men to have long hours?—I think many men in bleach-works would prefer to have long hours,

2402. If this principle spread among bleach-works, do not you think that they would wish to have long hours?—Yes.

2403. And might not we assign a time when those long hours would be done away without legislative interference?—I cannot say; I should be glad if it were so; we are better without any legislative interference.

Henry Sagur, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Henry Sagur, Esq.

2404. Mr. *Butt.*] I BELIEVE you are a partner in the dye and bleach-works of Messrs. Sumner, Dewhurst & Co.?—Yes.

2405. Those are the Broughton Dye-works, near Salford?—Yes.

2406. Will you state to the Committee what class of goods you dye at those works?—Fustians and calicoes are the principal work done at bleaching.

2407. Do you carry on finishing and packing on your own establishment?—No, we do not.

2408. Do you bleach?—Yes.

2409. But you do not pack?—We do not pack.

2410. Is not it at those works that you have voluntarily adopted the system of short hours?—Yes, for the last eight or ten years.

2411. Will you state what are the hours that you adopt there?—From six to six.

2412. Is that invariable throughout the year?—No, we in some instances stay from six to eight.

2413. Does that include the time for meals?—Yes.

2414. What are the times for meals?—Half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

2415. Will you be good enough to state to the Committee what the result of your experience of those short hours has been, as to the effect upon your trade?—I do not know that we have suffered anything from it; but it is a decided improvement.

2416. In what respects are you able to say there is an improvement?—Both in the quality of our work and in the getting a greater proportion of it.

2417. Are we to understand that you find you are capable of taking in better work?—Decidedly.

2418. I need scarcely ask whether that is better for the bleacher?—No doubt of it.

2419. You have heard the evidence to-day; I suppose you have heard before of what are called pushes?—Yes.

2420. Do you object to pushes?—Yes.

2421. How do you provide for a push?—By taking only a certain limited quantity.

2422. You do not take orders which you cannot execute with your short time?—No.

2423. At what hour do you leave off on Saturday?—Four.

2424. Can you give the Committee an opinion whether the regular working of these hours is more expensive than if you worked irregularly long hours?—The regular working is the cheapest.

2425. Do you find any inconvenience from invariably stopping your works at a certain hour?—There is an inconvenience attending it.

2426. Is that inconvenience a serious one?—Yes, and it is attended with a little more cost.

2427. Can you by any act mitigate or meet that inconvenience?—No, not very well.

2428. Will you give us an idea of how much that would add to the cost of bleaching?—A very trifling amount.

2429. Would it be ten per cent.?—No.

2430. Would it be five per cent.?—I should think not.

2431. So that you, having adopted short hours, are able to say that it would not add five per cent. to the cost of bleaching?—I should say not.

2432. At present you are not able to put the five per cent. upon the customer?—No.

2433. So that you lose five per cent. upon the work?—We have remodelled our process for the last 10 years, and we are now upon a principle that gives us a little advantage.

2434. Do you think that without inconvenience to your trade, a general legislative measure might be passed, enforcing the hours that you have adopted?—I cannot say; I have not an opinion upon that.

2435. Mr. *Clark*.] Do you find it prejudicial to your interest to refuse orders?—There is not a question that it is prejudicial to refuse them.

2436. As far as regards, not so much the actual loss of the orders you refuse, but so far as regards disobliging the customers, do you find that if you refuse an order it comes back again?—No, if it gets into other channels, and we lose the connexion often.

2437. Then it is prejudicial?—It is prejudicial.

2438. You do not work extra hours?—No.

2439. And you say that the additional expense, in consequence of not having those extra hours, is not more than five per cent?—I think not.

2440. We have it in evidence now, that the expense is 10 per cent.; do you think that the gentleman who gave that evidence was in error?—I should say that he was; it would depend upon what principle they were working upon to some extent.

2441. Do you find that you lose a great number of orders in consequence of your working short time?—No.

2442. You do not find that you are obliged to refuse a large amount of goods?—No.

2443. Mr. *Butt*.] It was stated to Mr. Tremenheere that you managed to reconcile your work with your short hours in this way, that if work is absolutely required, with a specified time for a certain ship, you often manage to put aside other goods that are not so urgent, which enables you to execute the order; is that so?—Yes.

2444. Is not it a matter of management, which, generally speaking, is not difficult?—It depends upon the business you are in.

2445. I believe you are a finisher?—Yes; I do not know that there is anything particular in our busness in that respect.

Joseph Crook, Esq., a Member of the House; Examined.

2446. Mr. *Butt*.] I BELIEVE you are the Member for Bolton?—I am one of the Members for Bolton.

2447. Have you any great acquaintance with the bleaching trade?—I am not practically acquainted with the process of bleaching, but with the part of it in connexion with the mercantile trade I have some acquaintance.

2448. What is your own business?—My own business is a cotton-spinner and manufacturer.

2449. Do you send your goods to the bleacher to be bleached?—We send the bulk of our goods to be bleached.

2450. Would you state to the Committee what your opinion would be, as a practical man, of the effect of an Act limiting the hours of labour for women and children?—I look upon an Act of that nature mainly as affecting the health and morals of the women and children employed therein.

2451. Have you any practical acquaintance with the hours at present of labour pursued in the bleach-works?—I have some acquaintance, so far as my own observation goes, with the extremely late hours that they work at night at the bleach-works; and from inquiry of the workpeople I find that the women and children are employed extremely long hours, unreasonable hours, and that they are employed extensively at night.

2452. Can you state to the Committee what the result of your inquiries has led you to believe as to the length of the work?—It varies, I believe, from a very limited number of hours in the day when the bleach-works are slack, to 12, 14

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and 16 hours a day, for several days and weeks in succession, when very full of work.

2453. Is the work to the extent of 16 hours, in your opinion, carried on for several days in succession?—Yes.

2454. I need scarcely ask you what the effect of that is upon their health?—I am not prepared at this moment to give instances; particular instances have been brought under my notice, but I am not prepared here to-day to state to the Committee the nature of those instances.

2455. Are those instances of the quantity of suffering produced?—Yes; I have letters in my possession, at Bolton, from workpeople and the friends of workpeople, complaining of the physical suffering they have endured, and are victims to, in consequence of their protracted hours of labour.

2456. Has your attention been turned to the effect upon the morals and intelligence of the workpeople?—As regards the workpeople in the bleach-works at Bolton, I consider them inferior in intelligence and morals to the workpeople in the town, and especially so since the Factory Act came into full operation.

2457. At what ages are women and boys employed those long hours?—I believe in bleach-works they are taken in occasionally very young; but I think that is the exception. I believe they are not found of much practical use till they are 10 or 11 years of age.

2458. As representative of Bolton, probably you are well acquainted with the feelings of the working classes?—The operatives are decidedly, I think, in favour of a restriction of the hours of labour by legislative enactment.

2459. Do you think that that is a general feeling among the bleachers?—I think it is the general feeling among the bleachers; naturally, as long as the opportunity exists of working longer hours, and obtaining for the time higher wages, they will take advantage of it.

2460. Would they wish that the opportunity were taken away from them?—They are quite willing that the opportunity should be taken away from them.

2461. Is there, in point of fact, a considerable anxiety among the operatives that such a Bill might pass?—Decidely so.

2462. Have not they formed societies to obtain it?—They have.

2463. And subscribed money to it?—And subscribed money to it.

2464. And held meetings, and presented petitions?—They have held meetings and presented petitions, and have taken other steps to promote the enactment of such a measure, by appointing and supporting delegates to London, to represent their interest and wishes to the Members of the House of Commons, urging upon the Members of the House the importance and necessity of such a measure.

2465. Do you find that any of the operatives entertain a different opinion?—I think that the numbers who entertain opinions unfavourable to legislation are extremely limited. I have no reason myself to know that there is such an instance.

2466. Do you, in point of fact, know that any among the operatives would be averse to legislation?—I do not personally know, and I never heard of such a person.

2467. Then, as far as you know, the unanimous feeling of the operative bleachers is in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours of work?—Yes, as far as I know.

2468. You, as a manufacturer, are, of course, capable of forming an opinion of what the effect upon your trade will be of a restriction upon the hours of work in the bleach-works?—Yes.

2469. Do you think that a restriction of the hours of work would be the cause of any sensible inconvenience to you?—Certainly not; I think the consideration of the effect upon trade, of a restriction of the labour of women and children to ten hours a day, is altogether unworthy the attempt to collect a great amount of evidence upon it. The mere bleaching or washing the cloth is in itself of little importance compared with the manufacture of it, and that is already affected by existing law; that is to say, a far more important question of the same nature is settled by the Factory Act.

2470. And, therefore, you say that it is not worth considering?—It is utterly unimportant. I have every reason to think that the bleachers themselves, practically, have not much strength of conviction upon that point. The best evidence

that

that I can give of that is, that they are very indifferent with regard to their delivery of goods, though they know the orders are pressing. My experience is, that the bleachers put off one merchant's cloth for another's, just as may suit their convenience or their caprice. They let a merchant or a manufacturer wait for his cloth being delivered, rather than be acted upon by any pressure of a mercantile necessity.

2471. Then, in point of fact, you do not think that you would suffer any sensible inconvenience in having your orders executed, if there was a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works?—Not at all. I may give some practical instances. We have a considerable amount of bleaching with Mr. Ainsworth, who, I believe, is one of the most active opponents of legislation; and I could show that he does not attribute much importance to our foreign orders. I may state, that I find within the last few months we have had cloth delivered in eight or nine days frequently; but, as a general rule, it has varied from nine days to 51 days. There is one instance of between 600 and 700 pieces which, though we were pressing for them, were kept 51 days; that was, of course, for the bleachers' convenience; those goods were ordered to be shipped by the next steamer for America; but there has not appeared any evidence of a fear of losing their business by foreign competition, or else they would make provision for the delivery of cloth with greater punctuality.

2472. Is it your opinion that you could accommodate your trade to the altered state of things?—Easily.

2473. In your opinion, would it add materially to the cost of bleaching?—I do not think it would at all; the cost of bleaching at present, and for many years, has been more influenced by a combination among the bleachers than by the cost of bleaching. It may rise, as cotton-twist rose in price after the Factory Act: the consequence was to limit the production of twist, and to increase the price considerably more than the increased cost of production.

2474. Supposing that there is a rise in the cost of bleaching of five or even of 10 per cent., do you concur in the opinions expressed, that that would materially interfere with the cotton trade?—Not in the slightest degree.

2475. Is the cotton trade capable of sustaining a rise even of 10 per cent.?—The rise of a penny in price is nothing; our prices vary from 6 *d.* and 9 *d.* to 1 *s.*; they vary a few pence just as generally as any other marketable article does in the market. A penny is put out of our calculation either as a temporary or as a permanent step.

2476. Mr. *Clark.*] Do not you think that if the operatives are very anxious for short hours, they have it very much in their own hands?—No, I do not think they have.

2477. Suppose they were to refuse to work more than 10 hours, what would be the result?—They would be put out of work; they could not get a situation anywhere. At present the competition between master bleachers is such that they must have people to work long hours.

2478. If a man refused to work long hours, is it your opinion that that man would be dismissed?—Yes; and he could not get work if he made that a condition anywhere, except at Mr. Seagar's and a few other places; therefore that man must starve. Of course this Bill affects only women and children, and they are more helpless than men.

2479. Do the employers oblige children to work in that manner?—Certainly; they are indispensable to the process.

2480. Mr. *Packe.*] If a child were taken off the over-work, would that involve the discharge of the parent from the bleach-works?—Yes; the children must necessarily conform to the customs and rules of the bleach-works, or else be immediately discharged, just as in mills; before the mills were regulated, we had mills working for from 12 to 16 hours, and of course the children had to submit.

2481. Mr. *Butt.*] You can, of course, speak as to the effects of the Factory Act?—Yes.

2482. Will you state to the Committee what, in your opinion, those effects have been?—The effects have been beneficial in every respect to all branches of the trade; and as evidence of that, I may state that not even the masters complained; not a murmur has been heard as to its detriment upon the foreign trade of the country. Dreadful cries were uttered before the Bill passed, that the trade would be ruined, and the country would become a waste almost, if the Factory Act passed; but since it has passed the masters have themselves been convinced

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of its utility, of its benevolence, and of the good that has resulted, and no one of them has questioned its operation.

2483. Do you think that if they still had the option of the Factory Act, they would wish to get it repealed?—I am not aware of such a case. I have heard gentlemen express themselves against the principle of legislation, but I have not heard them say that they wished the Factory Act to be repealed. I may observe with regard to the improvement that has taken place among the workpeople and the masters, that the Factory Act has had an effect upon both. The masters have had more time, after their business hours, to devote to self-improvement. It used to be the case, that they would work in their offices until eight or nine o'clock at night, in consequence of the mills working till half past seven or eight, or nine, so that they were only a sort of privileged white slaves, until the Factory Bill passed. Another instance of it is the more friendly feeling that exists between master and man, and the improved policy of the working people in their trades unions. The trades unions are managed with much greater tact, and with less acerbity and ill-feeling than used to prevail.

2484. *Chairman.*] Are there any strikes with you?—There are occasionally strikes, and desperate ones. We have only just got out of one at Preston, which continued for six months; but still it was conducted with much better temper, and with less irritability of feeling than any strike of that length that I remember.

2485. Do you work chiefly for the foreign trade or the home trade?—Chiefly for the foreign trade.

2486. Was not it with respect to the foreign trade that these dismal predictions were most in vogue when the Factory Bill was under discussion?—It was.

2487. But you, working for the foreign trade, have not found out that those predictions were well founded?—No; but the fair inference is, that if the foreign trade were destroyed, the home trade would not be very prosperous. The competition in the home trade would be such as to make it scarce worth following.

2488. In the case of the bleaching trade, supposing inconvenience was to result to any of the manufacturers who employed the bleachers, would it be felt by the manufacturers who worked for the foreign trade, or the manufacturers who worked for the home trade?—If any inconvenience were felt, it would affect both.

2489. Being engaged largely in the foreign trade yourself, you are perfectly willing to run any risk of inconvenience from the limitation of the hours of labour in bleach-works?—Perfectly; in fact, I am quite satisfied that the measure will be an unmixed benefit to every branch of the trade. I am sure there is no element in it that would be more benefited by it than the masters; the business would be better done, I think much better done in quality, and that would compensate for the difference of cost; upon that ground they have no reason to fear competition, and I think that the business being to some extent limited, and subject to the incidents of a measure like this, would be much pleasanter, much easier, and much more satisfactory and prosperous than it is now.

2490. Did the master manufacturers themselves object to submit to similar regulations under the Factory Act?—Yes, I think that factory property may be looked upon as a decided proof of the prosperity and greater regularity that are sure to succeed to a measure of this kind, but if there were any doubt about it, I am convinced that the morality and physical necessity of the measure are so urgent that if there were any commercial reasons for hesitating, they are dissipated at once by its imperious necessity.

2491. Mr. *Butt.*] Are you able to speak as to how the master bleachers are disposed to such a measure generally?—I have not had an opportunity lately of conversing with many of them; there are a few that are very resolute in opposing this Bill. I believe the number is increasing of those who are favourably disposed.

2492. Is not there a considerable opinion among the masters in favour of this Bill?—There is.

2493. Do you know of any attempt being made to effect a voluntary arrangement?—I have not heard of such a thing; I should not give a moment's encouragement to such a scheme, it is utterly impracticable: I think experience proves that any attempt at voluntary arrangement upon a question of this kind is utterly preposterous.

2494. Are you aware of something of the kind having been attempted in the west of Scotland?—I am aware of evidence being given in Mr. Tremenheere's report, which I have no doubt is correct.

2495. Is not the great majority of masters in your district favourable to restriction?—I believe they are.

2496. And of the impossibility to make a voluntary arrangement?—Yes.

2497. And there is a concurrency of opinion as to its utter impracticability?—There are few people to be found who would entertain the idea that such a scheme was practicable.

2498. *Chairman.*] In your own experience, were those voluntary arrangements ever attempted to be entered into previous to the passing of the Factory Act in your trade?—There were many attempts by individual masters, and a few of the workpeople, but they were always attended with certain failure; and I remember the late Mr. Fielding made a great sacrifice himself to carry it out individually, but of course the thing was altogether impracticable; he only victimised himself and his workpeople; without law it cannot be done.

2499. Mr. *Butt.*] Is there any other point upon which you wish to give information to the Committee?—It strikes me, that the principle of this Bill is not one that involves an attempt to regulate trade; it is simply a philosophical and a moral question. It is clear that women and children cannot be employed these unreasonable hours with impunity, and that it is simply a question claiming the attention of the Legislature as a special evil requiring a remedy.

2500. Do you consider it a crime on the part of the parent, to work his child in such a way as to affect its physical condition?—I do consider it a crime against the natural laws.

2501. Would not you consider the master who was an accessory to that, also guilty of an offence?—I must exonerate the master; under the present arrangements, competition obliges him to do what he believes to be wrong; many masters do it, and admit the wrong.

2502. In point of fact, do you know that masters have expressed that opinion, that they were doing wrong, and that they were forced to do wrong in these hours of over-work?—I do not remember hearing that confession from any of my personal friends, but it is broadly stated by one of the master bleachers in Scotland; I do not remember his name; I have no doubt that feelings of that sort are entertained by some of my personal friends.

2503. Do you regard this Bill not as an interference with trade, but as an interference of the Legislature to prevent the parent committing a crime against his child?—It is not so much to prevent them committing a crime, but to provide for the health and morals of the rising generation. There are people that do not like legislation; that are fond of mud; you cannot get their sewers cleaned, and they resist legislative efforts. Even if they are up to the neck they would rather stick in the mud than that you should get them out by law; but it will not do for the Legislature to be governed by this sort of people; it is necessary for the welfare of the people, and even for our own personal welfare, that those notions should be overcome; that the law should over-ride them, and this mud should be cleared away; and it is this mud of ignorance that is entertained by the master bleachers, and it must be cleared away, although they are unwilling.

2504. Do you think there is danger in those over-hours of work of a deterioration of the population?—I think the physical condition of the population is deteriorated by over-hours of work already, and it is to stop that deterioration that I advocate the matter.

2505. Have not you in Bolton, a number of mechanics' institutes and educational institutions formed by the workpeople themselves?—We have one mechanics' institution and one public library, to which the working classes have contributed handsomely.

2506. Do you perceive any difference in the part taken in those by bleachers and by other classes of society?—There is scarcely ever a person connected with the bleach-works who subscribes to the funds of the mechanics' institution; the people from the bleach-works attending the mechanics' institution are extremely few in number in proportion to all the others.

2507. Do you attribute that to the long hours of work?—I do.

2508. Are the bleachers as a class naturally less intelligent than others?—Not naturally; but the long hours of work make them so.

2509. Do you think that if they had equal advantages with the other operatives they would avail themselves of the means of education?—Certainly.

 2510. Have

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2510. Have you had complaints of their not being able to get the means of education?—I have had complaints made by men, women and children of their being deprived of the opportunity of improving themselves.

2511. Were those complaints frequent?—To myself, not very frequent; they have occurred on the occasions when I have had occasion to mix with the work-people of bleach-works, at their meetings especially.

2512. You have, I believe, taken an active part with the working classes in the agitation of this question?—I have taken the chair at their public meetings in Bolton, and have lent them any assistance in my power.

2513. Were those meetings well attended?—They were very well attended; they were attended exclusively by the working classes, except a few clergymen and two or three master bleachers.

2514. Were there many master bleachers who attended those meetings?—Not many; Mr. Heywood was there.

2515. Did those meetings confirm the opinion you have expressed, that there is a strong anxiety among the working bleachers for the measure?—Yes, in an unqualified manner; there were resolutions in favour of it.

2516. Was the feeling expressed a very strong one?—Very strong; there was a great deal of enthusiasm at the meetings in favour of this measure.

2517. You have said that the clergymen attend those meetings?—Yes.

2518. Do you know whether the opinion of the clergy in the neighbourhood of Bolton is in favour of the measure?—I think the clergy, as a body, are most of them in favour of it.

2519. Can you tell us the opinion of the medical men?—I think there is scarcely an exception to be found among them as to this measure.

2520. You probably have seen the petition presented to this House from Bolton from the medical men and clergymen?—I have seen it in Mr. Tremenheere's Report.

2521. You of course are able to form an opinion of the names attached to it?—Yes.

2522. Will you look over those names, and state, from your knowledge of Bolton, what you think of that expression of opinion (*Mr. Tremenheere's Report being handed to the Witness*)?—I should say those names may be taken as a decided preponderence of opinion on the part of those two classes, the ministers and the medical gentlemen.

2523. Are you well acquainted with Manchester and Salford?—I am not very conversant with them.

2524. Are you acquainted with the merchants and commission agents at Manchester?—I have some acquaintance with them.

2525. Will you look at page 10 of Mr. Tremenheere's Report, which contains this passage: "Those names will at once be recognised as comprising nearly the whole of the principal mercantile firms in Manchester, the nature of whose businesses causes them to be in frequent communication with the bleachers, and acquainted with the peculiarities of their trade." Do you see the names in the immediately preceding column?—Yes.

2526. Would you consider that those are the "principal mercantile firms in Manchester, the nature of whose business causes them to be in frequent communication with the bleachers, and acquainted with the peculiarities of their trade"?—Yes; those are some of the leading firms in Manchester, and I should think they are a very fair test of the opinions of the merchants in Manchester, who are in contact with the bleachers.

2527. Would you say that that was a fair representation of the classes of merchants who come in contact with the bleachers?—Those are some of the largest merchants.

2528. If their opinion was that this restriction of the hours of work would do no harm to the trade, may we say that the opinion of the merchants in Manchester is in favour of it?—Yes.

2529. Mr. *Kirk*.] What do you mean by the use of the words "the mud of ignorance"?—I mean that it is the attachment that certain gentlemen have, in their minds, to the customs in which they have been brought up, and to the institutions by which they are surrounded.

2530. Do you mean to say that it is the attachment to ancient customs?—It is the attachment to bad customs in this case.

2531. Do you think that attachment to ancient customs is "the mud of ignorance"?—Yes.

2532. Then, I suppose, that as Sunday is an ancient custom, you would think that the attachment to the Sabbath was necessarily "the mud of ignorance?"—No; it depends upon my opinion of the utility of the institution. I think it is a good thing that a bleacher should bleach goods; I do not think it is a bad notion of his that he must bleach goods in order to get his living. They have been long attached to that notion, and I think that that notion is not "the mud of ignorance." But I think it is "the mud of ignorance" to be working in the night at bleaching, or at all events to employ women and children in the night. I should not like my own wife or my child to be going out of the house and along the road through the town at all hours of the night. I think the necessities of commerce do not require such unreasonable arrangements, and I do not think that they can be placed upon the same footing as the institution of the Sabbath.

2533. Have not you a special regard yourself for the Sabbath?—I have.

2534. Have you never advocated working on the Sunday?—I never did.

2535. Did you never countenance working on the Sunday?—I never did, at anything that could be avoided.

2536. What do you mean by that distinction?—I mean that in cotton works it is occasionally necessary, in order that the works should go on on Monday, that some repairs should be done on Sunday.

2537. Would you, therefore, advocate that work should be done on Sunday?—I would advocate working to that extent. It is necessary in the cotton mills that men should work on Sunday to keep the rooms dry and warm, and so on, in order that the people should be able to work on Monday morning.

2538. The people need not work on Monday morning?—Certainly not; but I think that that is one of the institutions to which they are wisely attached.

2539. You do not think that "the mud of ignorance"?—No.

2540. Is not your own opinion the standard of what you consider "the mud of ignorance"?—Yes, it is.

2541. I believe you live in Bolton, in the neghbourhood of these bleach-works, and are familiar with their operations?—I am familiar with their operations so far, that I see them taking in cloth and sending it out again bleached, and I see them lighted up late at night.

2542. Do you often visit the bleach-works?—Once or twice a year.

2543. How often have you been in a bleach-work in your life?—I should think about 10 times.

2544. Is not your information upon the subject derived from the committee of working men?—No; it is derived a good deal from letters which I have received from the friends of the operatives and the workpeople, and from the intercourse with the workpeople at their meetings. I have taken a good deal of pains to make myself acquainted with individual cases by occasionally speaking with them at their meetings, and at other times when I have had an opportunity of intercourse with them. I used to live very near to Messrs. Bridson's bleach-works, and as a young man I had more practical intimacy with them than I have had of late years.

2545. Did you never advise these persons not to send their children to the works to be so cruelly treated?—No; because it would be "the mud of ignorance" to do so; they are under the necessity of having a small income from their children's labour, and are compelled to submit them to the rules of the bleach-works; working long days and during the night is such a prevailing custom, that the workpeople cannot set it at defiance.

2546. Do you mean to say that any workman cannot set prevailing customs at defiance?—He can only do it at the expense of much personal suffering and inconvenience; he must have a less income if he keeps the child at home.

2547. Do you mean to assert, then, to this Committee, that it is "the mud of ignorance," as you term it, for a parent to send his children to school?—No; I do not think so, if he can afford it.

2548. Whether he has the means or no, will not 1 *d.* a week, or 2 *d.* a week enable him to get the children educated?—Yes, it will; but he cannot dispense with the 2 *s.* a week that the child brings in.

 2549. Why

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2549. Why cannot he dispense with that?—Because he probably has a wife and four children to support.

2550. Supposing that he has two children, do you think that it is "the mud of ignorance" to send his children to school?—My supposition was, that he had four children.

2551. Mr. *Butt.*] Did you mean to say in your answer that it would be the "mud of ignorance" upon your part to suppose that you could have prevented parents from sending their children to work?—I do not remember the meaning of the question and my answer.

2552. Mr. *Kirk.*] Supposing that the father earns 20 *s.* a week, and the mother earns 6 *s.* or 7 *s.*, so that the income of a family with two children is 26 *s.* or 27 *s.* a week, do you mean to tell the Committee that you think that they could not or ought not to spare the 2 *d.* a week that would educate their children until they were able to read with fluency?—I think they ought; but unfortunately the great mass of the workpeople in Bolton having four or six children, only have 14 *s.* to 20 *s.* a week coming in.

2553. You were speaking of a library in Bolton; do the rules of your library preclude workpeople taking out books to read?—Certainly not; there are, I think, 10,000 volumes at their service.

2554. You say that you are acquainted with the bleach-works; supposing that one of the workpeople should take a book out, are not there intervals of labour in which that man may read it if he likes?—There are intervals; but the uncertainty and irregularity of that kind of employment indisposes a man altogether to reading. The inducement to self-culture arises from more orderly habits. A man who is employed in a very irregular manner is not regular in any thing; it disorders and demoralises all his habits.

2555. How will this new law make the work more continuous?—By distributing the work; first, by limiting the number of hours during which women and children may be worked, which will to some extent make it necessary to spread the business over a greater number of days.

2556. How would you do that?—Instead of working three days for 16 hours I would have them work four days for 10 hours; 16 hours of course includes the meal times.

2557. Supposing that to be the law, would there be any clause in the Bill to prevent Messrs. Bridson from extending their works and employing additional hands?—Not at all; I think that would be the result.

2558. And then would there not be the same amount of interference with labour and rest as there is now?—If this Bill were passed, and they put up additional machinery, of course a greater number of people would be employed at more regular hours, having more regular habits, and a great benefit would result.

2559. Supposing that to be the case, does that in the slightest degree benefit the people who work by the piece, and who are not paid by the day as they are in the cotton mills?—They are not paid by the day; the great bulk of the workpeople in the cotton mills are paid by the piece, and though they worked by the piece they were exceedingly anxious to have the Factory Act. Evidence had been given since I came into the room in favour of the impression (and it is unquestionably true), that the workpeople get as much wages for 10 hours as they used to do for 12.

2560. Is the principal expectation about Bolton that they will get the same amount of money for 10 hours, as they do now for 16?—I have no doubt that that is one motive, and in my opinion a legitimate one, seeing the benefits of the Factory Act. But their leading object is a social one. They wish to have some social comforts, by being able to spend their evenings at home with one another. Their next reason is, that it will improve their position in society, and their financial resources.

2561. If a man could only earn a certain sum of money by working 16 hours a day, and in consequence of that work he is able to educate his children, will his being able to work only 10 hours a day if he is paid in the same way, enable him to get more money and to educate his children better?—The effect of the Factory Act has been, that the wages of the man himself have been raised.

2562. Has there not been a general rise of wages throughout the empire owing to

to the introduction of free trade?—No doubt that will have acted very materially upon the condition of the factory operatives.

2563. Do not you think therefore, that it is not owing to the Factory Act, but to the introduction of free trade, that that rise has taken place?—It is partly owing to the institution of the free trade policy, no doubt.

2564. With whose bleach-works are you most familiar?—I think with those of my neighbour, Mr. Makant.

2565. Have you been often in Messrs. Bridson's works?—I have not; it is now a good many years since I have been there.

2566. Are you aware that Messrs. Bridson & Co. have a reading-room supplied with books and periodicals for their workpeople?—I am not aware of it.

2567. Have you never heard it?—I do not remember now that I ever heard of it.

2568. Did you ever hear that Messrs. Blair & Co. have a reading-room supplied with books and periodicals for their workpeople?—I do not know that I have heard of it.

2569. So that though you live in the neighbourhood of these people, is it not the fact that you have taken evidence only on one side of the question?—I do not think I have.

2570. Do not you live in the neighbourhood of those people?—Yes. My inquiries have naturally been directed to the evils that prevail, and to the most practicable mode of remedying those evils. I have not associated the mechanics' institution or the public library with the question of the policy or impolicy of working women and children long days, and during the night, and therefore have had no motive to inquire as to the number of books that they had in the bleach-works in the neighbourhood; I do not think the men appreciate these things: an independent workman would not like to be pauperised by having books provided for him by his master. If I were a working man I should wish to be in an independent position, and buy books, or subscribe to a library, altogether independent of my master's supply.

2571. May I conclude from your answer that you are opposed to the masters of factories providing education for the children of their operatives?—Not at all, so far as they have been required by law to go to school; we are not compelled to provide the education; we are merely forbidden to employ them for more than one day till we have secured their attendance at some school; but the schooling must be paid for by themselves.

2572. Is Mr. Makant's establishment a very large establishment?—Not very large; it is a moderate sized one.

2573. Do they work very long hours there?—Not very long hours.

2574. What hours do they work?—I think that some days they work a very short time, but at other times, I believe, they work up to 12 hours; but I think, as a rule, Mr. Makant is one of those benevolent masters who will not undertake to do work which requires him to go into extremely long hours.

2575. Have you been to any other bleach-works, except Mr. Makant's, lately?—Not lately.

2576. How many years is it since you have been in any bleach-work except his?—It is not more than three years, I think, since I was through the principal part of the works of Messrs. John Slater & Co.

2577. Did you think it necessary, for the purposes of this inquiry, that you should make yourself acquainted with any but one side of the case?—I think I have made myself acquainted with both sides of the case. One side of the case I look upon to be the existence of a great evil, and the other the provision of a sufficient remedy.

2578. Would it not have been desirable for you to have made yourself acquainted with the processes in the different bleach-works, in order to suggest a proper remedy?—I have made myself acquainted with them. I was shown through Mr. Makant's works a short time since, and my impression was, and is now, that there is no practical difficulty in the bleachers confining themselves to the same hours as in the factories.

2579. Did you satisfy yourself by one walk only?—Within the last few years that was the case. Mr. Makant has expressed an opinion to me favourable to short hours, but opposed to the principle of legislation. He takes fright at what he calls the principle of interference.

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2580. He is a great friend of yours, is not he?—He is a personal friend of mine.

2581. Did not he support you most strongly in the last election?—He plumped for Mr. Barnes, and did not vote for me.

2582. Has his change of opinion arisen in any way out of the present inquiry?—His change of conduct towards his friend arose from finding that his friend was such an ardent supporter of a measure of which he disapproved. He disapproved of our principle, and he declined to vote for me.

2583. Then does Mr. Makant disapprove of this in principle?—He does not like the principle of legislative interference in regard to trade.

2584. Do you consider him one of those who are in "the mud of ignorance"?—He is to that extent; I should not hesitate to tell him so if he were here.

2585. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do you know that his opinion is to this effect, that the hours of labour can be shortened by voluntary arrangement?—I do not think he entertains any such notion as that; I should hope not.

2586. From what you know of his opinions, he objects strongly to interference on the part of the Legislature?—He does.

2587. Are there many cotton factories in the neighbourhood of the bleach-works at Bolton?—There are.

2588. Do you know any instance of the various workpeople in these bleach-works leaving the bleach-works and going to the mills?—I do not know any instances, I hear there have been; it is very natural that it should be a temptation to women who can bear to stand for 16 hours in the day, if they find that they can get a few shillings more by working at the bleach-works.

2589. Have they gone from the mill which is under legislative restriction with regard to hours, to the bleach-works where there is no such restriction?—Yes.

2590. Do you know of any instances in which the people have gone from the bleach-works to the mills?—I do not know of any instances on either side that could be referred to.

2591. Is not that the only practical mode in which the workman can give expression to his objection to long hours?—Certainly not.

2592. What other modes are there in which he can do it?—A man may be an advocate for working eight hours a day, just as Mr. Fielding was when he was a spinner. He tried eight hours a day; but he afterwards became a convert to the necessity for legislation, and put his mill on to 12; he once thought that he could influence the customs of society.

2593. Is there anything to prevent a man leaving the bleach-works and going to the mills?—There is this to prevent, namely, the situation in which they are placed. Their families are resident in the neighbourhood of bleach-works, and bleaching is more in accordance with their tastes than the factory; they do not like the factory smell, or they do not like the factory customs, or they do not like the factory wages. More depends upon a person's education and customs than anything else.

2594. So that, upon the whole, they prefer these long hours to seeking shorter hours?—I do not think that they do.

2595. Does not their remaining there give a practical testimony that they do?—No; the practical testimony that they do not is their having assembled in large numbers at Bolton, when I took the chair at their meetings, to express their opinion in favour of short hours.

2596. Would not a more practical testimony be given by their leaving the bleach-works where they are so restricted?—It would, but the thing is impracticable.

2597. Why is it impracticable?—Because it is impossible that they should succeed (with any useful result); they would only be personal victims by doing violence to their tastes, their customs, and their weekly income, by any such attempt; there is no motive for it. Certainly, personal sacrifice is the best test of sincerity.

2598. Do you suppose that they prefer better wages in the bleach-works, and long hours, to lower wages and shorter time?—Some do; but the best test of factory employment is the fact that there is no scarcity; we can get plenty of workmen at from 17*s.* to 20*s.* in the factory.

2599. Is

2599. Is not there considerable extension going on in the factories?—Very considerable.

2600. *Chairman.*] Have you any difficulty in finding labour in the factories?—I do not know of any at this moment.

2601. Is it certain that if all the people from the bleach-works were to throw themselves upon the factories they could get employment?—I do not think they could.

2602. Would not they have to unlearn the business to which they were accustomed, and to learn a business to which they were unaccustomed?—They would; great inconvenience would be incurred by a change of this sort.

2603. Mr. *Butt.*] You were asked about a rise of wages having generally taken place since the introduction of free trade; are you acquainted with the wages in the bleach-works for the last 10 years?—I am not.

2604. Then you do not know whether they have fallen or not?—I do not.

2605. Have you heard whether they have fallen?—I have not heard anything upon the question; nothing upon the subject of wages has been stated to me.

2606. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that any other cause has affected the rise of wages besides what is called the introduction of free trade?—I do not recognise any important causes acting upon the demand and supply of labour, except the limitation of the hours of labour, and the free trade creating a demand for labour.

2607. Do you restrict these observations to your own business and neighbourhood?—I restrict my observations to my own business and neighbourhood.

2608. Do you intend the Committee to understand by your answer that you do not apply these observations to the agricultural interest, or any other interest not connected with your own business?—I conceive that wages generally are influenced by the demand for the productions of labour, mainly for the foreign trade; that acts upon the home trade, drawing off labour to some extent from the home trade, so as to raise its price, and to enhance its value.

2609. Are you still restricting your observations to trade?—No; I extend them to the agricultural districts; I think that free trade, by increasing the demand for the production of labour of all kinds, agricultural and manufacturing, there being a more steady and more vigorous and remunerative demand for labour of all kinds, has given an impulse to labour, agricultural as well as manufacturing.

2610. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Is it your opinion that at the present moment you have a surplus population in the neighbourhood of Bolton sufficient to fill the new mills that will be erected there?—I think we have, or we may expect workpeople to come there when the mills are got ready. I am giving a practical proof of my belief, for I am building new works.

Martis, 23° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cheetham.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Wise.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, in the CHAIR.

Albert Bowley, called in; and Examined.

Albert Bowley.

23 June 1857.

2611. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee what occupation you follow?—I am a Bleacher.

2612. For whom do you work?—Messrs. Spencer & Harrison.

2613. Where are their works?—At Nottingham.

2614. What branch of the business do they carry on?—The finishing.

2615. What class of goods do they bleach?—Cotton goods.

2616. Can you tell us the number of people, men, women and children, that are employed in those works?—I should think about 50, or from that to 60.

2617. Of those how many will be women, how many children, and how many young persons under the age of 18?—I should think there are perhaps a dozen or 14 under the age of 18.

2618. And how many of those are women?—The greater part of them are females; there are about a dozen women altogether.

2619. What are their usual hours of work?—At the present time we work about 13 hours; but it is not so much as what we in general work.

2620. Do you mean by that 13 hours of work, or 13 hours partly work and partly time taken up for meals and resting?—It is work; it is about 15 hours, including meals.

2621. And you say sometimes those hours are exceeded?—Yes, generally.

2622. Can you tell the Committee the greatest number of hours of continuous work that you remember?—I have known them to work nearly nine days in a week.

2623. Will you state to the Committee at what time the work begins on Monday morning?—They generally begin about six o'clock in the morning.

2624. How many hours do they work continuously?—I have known them to work till eleven and twelve, and I have known them to work till two and three; that would be two or three on Tuesday morning.

2625. At what time do the people who have been working till two or three o'clock on Tuesday morning come back again to work?—Six o'clock the next morning.

2626. Until what time do they work?—Till ten or eleven or twelve the next night; perhaps longer.

2627. Then they go home; at what time will they begin again on Wednesday?—They begin again about the same time: they continue that about the week through. I have known them to work so late that they have not gone home; they have laid down upon the pieces to rest themselves the few hours they have had to rest.

2628. Do you mean that they have not gone home for the week?—I have known them not to go home for two or three nights.

2629. You have stated already that the great majority of those employed in these works are females?—Yes.

2630. Can you tell the Committee what the effect upon the females so engaged has been?—I have known many of them to suffer very much from it; they have been

been laid up with it; and some have been obliged to leave the works on account of working so many hours.

2631. Were those cases which have occurred recently, or are you speaking now of the state of things some years ago?—It has been till about twelve months ago. This last twelve months we have not worked so long a time as we always have done since I have worked there before.

2632. Do you know what has brought about that change?—I have thought it might be on account of the expectation of this Bill.

2633. Has there been any conversation at all between the masters and the workpeople upon the subject of this Bill?—Yes; they have spoken about it many times.

2634. Have any arrangements been proposed on the one side or the other?—No; they do not seem willing to give way at all; they said it might be so provided if there were some steps taken so that all could be placed in the same position.

2635. Can you tell the Committee whether the feeling among the people employed in the bleaching business is in favour of restricting the hours of labour?—Yes, it is, very much.

2636. Was that feeling expressed to Mr. Tremenheere when he was taking evidence in Nottingham?—I am sure I cannot say.

2637. Are you aware of the nature of Mr. Tremenheere's report?—I am not.

2638. Is machinery used in your works?—There are rollers; but I believe they are not, generally speaking, used in the finishing branch, though we use them.

2639. In your finishing department rollers are used?—Yes.

2640. Can you tell the Committee what the ordinary heat is in those rooms in which you work?—We vary from about 80 to 110 degrees, I should think.

2641. Can you tell the Committee that 80 is about the lowest?—Yes; I do not know that ever I have seen it under 80.

2642. Do those women and young persons work the number of hours you have described in that temperature?—Yes, and they complain very much of the heat.

2643. When you tell the Committee that they complain very much, have you known cases in which they have had to leave the works in consequence?—Yes; they have been recommended by their medical advisers to leave, or otherwise it would shorten their days.

2644. In those instances have they come back again to the works, or have they left for good and all?—There are some we never knew to go back at all.

2645. Can you tell the Committee in what way they suffer; is there any particular disease which they are subject to?—I have known some who have suffered very much in their feet.

2646. Have the bleachers and finishers of Nottingham ever petitioned Parliament to be included in the operation of any Bill which should be passed upon this subject?—I believe they have.

2647. You have described the effects upon the physical condition of the women and children who work these long hours; can you tell the Committee anything about their education?—I believe the greater part of them are altogether uneducated.

2648. At what age will they generally be taken into the works?—We have had some under 13; but I think we have none at present; they are taken in from 13 upwards.

2649. Before they come to the age of 13, do they receive no education?—None at all.

2650. Why is that?—Because they do not seem to attend to it.

2651. You say that children are seldom taken into the works before they come to the age of 13; why are not they educated up to the time when they enter the works?—I should suppose that there are instances of some who get educated, and some perhaps do not. They cannot care much for it.

2652. Are the grown-up people who are working educated at all?—No, I think very little; in fact, if they do not get it before they come there, they do not seem to get it there.

2653. Do they attend any places of religious worship, generally?—I believe not at any time; I have frequently spoken to them, and asked them if they did not go to a place of worship, and they said they could not, they were so tired of working

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working so many hours that they were compelled to lie in bed on the Sabbath to rest.

2654. Can you tell the Committee on what hour on the Saturday you usually leave off work?—Now, we leave off between seven and eight o'clock; but I have known them to work until half-past eleven; we first spoke to the master about letting us give over earlier on the Saturday night; and he has told us that if we would come sooner in the morning and work without any tea, we might give over between six and seven; but they often were later than that.

2655. If you accepted that offer and went to the works between six and seven o'clock on the Saturday morning, at what time would you have left the works on the Friday night?—Perhaps nine, ten, or eleven o'clock; it is generally about nine or half-past nine now.

2656. You have told the Committee that few of the workpeople attend any place of worship; do you wish to tell the Committee what your practice in that respect is?—Before I went to work I used regularly to attend; I never used to miss it, in fact; but since I have worked there I have been so tired with the labours of the week that I have not been able; I have been almost compelled to lie and rest all day on Sunday.

2657. Is that the ordinary practice of those with whom you work?—I believe it is, generally, from what I hear.

2658. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Were you aware of Mr. Tremenheere being in Nottingham?—No, I was not.

2659. Were any of your fellow-workmen aware of his presence?—I cannot say; they have frequently heard that the House of Commons were about to legislate for the regulation of the hours, and they have been very much agitated about it, hoping that it would come to pass.

2660. Do you know that his report specially exempts Nottingham from any prospective legislation on the subject?—No, I am not aware of that.

2661. Do they employ boys and girls there?—We have scarcely any boys at all.

2662. What is the youngest that you have?—I do not think we have any under 13 at present; they are very small, but they could not be possibly under that age.

2663. Have you any females in your works?—Yes.

2664. What would be the proportion of females in your works?—We have, I should think, 14, perhaps a few more, perhaps a few less, under 18 years of age; I do not ask them any thing about their age, and of course I only go from their appearance.

2665. Is not it the custom in the lace trade, generally, to work long hours, day and night?—Yes.

2666. You have given an opinion about the education of the children of Nottingham under 13, stating that they are not educated?—I was speaking only of those who work with me; I have found that they were not able to read or write.

2667. Is that the case with those who come above 13?—Yes, many of them.

2668. Is not it the fact that there are a great number both of day and Sunday schools in Nottingham?—Yes, it is.

2669. Do you know of anything which should prevent the children to whom you refer attending those schools before they attain this age?—I do not know of anything which would prevent their getting education before that age, except it was that the parents do not take an interest in it.

2670. What are the earnings that these boys and girls in your establishment get?—We have no boys, except one or two; but the girls get 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.*, and 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

2671. Is that all they would get for those long hours?—They are paid for overtime.

2672. What would be their total earnings?—I am sure I cannot say what they would get altogether.

2673. What class of working people would get that?—The females.

2674. Do you mean to say that there is any female in Nottingham working for 3*s.* a week?—Yes, a great many of them.

2675. What do the young females in the warehouses who bind the lace get?—I cannot

I cannot say exactly what they get; because it is a question that we seldom speak of among one another.

2676. Is not it the fact that there is not a more expensively dressed population than the young women in Nottingham who work in such establishments as that in which you work?—I do not see a great amount of dress about us.

2677. Mr. *Kirk.*] Are they paid by the day or by the piece?—They are paid by the day.

2678. What number of hours constitute a day?—Nine and a half hours.

2679. When they work from six in the morning until 12 at night, what quantity of time does that reckon; is it a day and a half or a day and three quarters?—We should reckon from eight to seven a day.

2680. You spoke of beginning at six; would that be extra work?—That would be an hour and a half over.

2681. Is eight the proper time to begin?—Eight is the proper time to begin; but we seldom begin at that time.

2682. Supposing you were about to work for a day only, at what time would you consider that day's work to begin, and at what time would it end?—I should begin at eight and give over at seven.

2683. Then you begin at eight o'clock, after breakfast?—Yes.

2684. What intervals of rest would you have for food?—We should have an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

2685. From eight to seven would be 11 hours, and an hour and a half out of that would leave 9½ hours?—Yes

2686. Then 9½ hours is a day's work?—Yes.

2687. What wages do you yourself get for these 9½ hours?—I get 3 *s.* per day.

2688. Suppose you work till 12 at night; how much more would you get?—I should get 2 *s.* 2 *d.*

2689. Then you would get for working from eight o'clock in the morning till 12 at night 5 *s.* 2 *d.*?—Yes.

2690. Are not those extraordinarily high wages the reason why persons are induced to work those overtimes?—I am sure I cannot say whether that is the inducement; they are compelled to do it; they would rather get less, and work less time.

2691. What do you mean by the words "compelled to do it"?—If they did not do it the master would get rid of them.

2692. Would there be no other means in such a place as Nottingham by which they could obtain employment?—There are a great many out of work, and there would be great hazard in getting any work.

2693. Do you mean to say that the labour in Nottingham that is paid so highly is surplused; is there more labour than demand?—There are a great many people out of work, and they remain out of work a long time when they once get out.

2694. Is not there any other employment for women and children of a lighter kind in Nottingham?—Yes, there is other employment.

2695. Is not it exceedingly plentiful for that class of labour?—I cannot say that it is plentiful; I seldom get to see much of other people on account of my having to attend to my own business.

2696. Are you one of the short-time committee at Nottingham?—No.

2697. Is there a short-time committee there?—I am sure I cannot say.

2698. To what place of worship did you go when you were an attendant?—I went to the General Baptists.

2699. Is not there a large Roman Catholic establishment at Nottingham?—I believe there is.

2700. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You have stated in answer to a question put by an Honourable Member, that your total earnings for a day's work and overtime amounted to 5 *s.* 2 *d.* a day?—Yes, I think that would be about it.

2701. Did I rightly understand you to say, that whilst you earn 5 *s.* 2 *d.* a day, a female in the same establishment, going through the same hours, earns only 3 *s.* a week?—Except their overtime.

2702. Nine and a half hours is her day's work?—Yes.

2703. What does she get for that?—Half-a-crown a week.

2704. What would she get for the extra hours?—She would, perhaps, get a halfpenny an hour; I cannot say exactly what they do get.

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2705. What would her overtime be daily; would it be 2½ hours a day?—She would work nine hours and a half, and her overtime would be about a halfpenny an hour over.

2706. So that if she works seven hours overtime, that would be 3½ *d.* a day?—Yes.

2707. Do you mean to state to the Committee that a female working in a temperature from 80 to 110 degrees those long hours, 12, 13 or 14, would only earn about from 7½ *d.* to 8 *d.* a day in the town of Nottingham?—Yes.

2708. Are you competent to speak upon that?—Yes.

2709. Can you give me a case?—I know several cases in our own place.

2710. Would you give one case in detail, and give the name of the party?—In our own place we have so many that I do not know scarcely any names except the first name; for it is not the habit to call each other by the full name, so that I am not prepared to state the full name.

2711. Do you know the earnings of females in warehouses?—I do not.

2712. Do you know that they are earning 10 *s.* a week?—I am sure I cannot say.

2713. Do you still repeat to the Committee your statement that a female working in the same establishment that you work in, and working the same long hours, would only earn 3 *s.* a week?—Yes, or somewhere thereabouts.

2714. *Chairman.*] I think I understood you to say that she will earn 3 *s.* for her 9½ hours a day?—Yes; from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 3 *s.*

2715. Can you tell the Committee at all what would be the earnings of the same person if she worked at lace, for instance, in her own cottage, in the course of a week?—I do not know.

2716. Mr. *Davison.*] Is not it your opinion that the non-attendance of children under 10 years of age at any place of worship on Sunday arises from the neglect of the parents?—Yes, I dare say it may be so.

2717. Is it not further your opinion that the working those extra hours arises from the cupidity or desire of the parent to get more money?—No, I think not.

2718. What do you think it proceeds from?—We have spoken to our masters upon the subject several times, and I think that it might be done provided that they all were on a level.

2719. Several witnesses who have been examined here have all concurred in the opinion that it arises from the cupidity of the workpeople themselves. Do you differ from that view?—I am rather of a different opinion to that.

2720. You seem to think that it is from necessity?—Yes.

2721. And that necessity, according to your view, arises from the difficulty of getting other employment?—Yes; I believe that is correct.

2722. Do you mean to say that if the workpeople did not work the extra hours, or if any one or two of them declined to work the extra hours, they would be discharged?—Yes.

2723. Mr. *Packe.*] Have you known any instances where it has been done?—I have known many that have left on account of working so many hours; I cannot say that any have been discharged, but it is my opinion that they would be.

2724. Mr. *Davison.*] You do not know, of your own knowledge, of any being discharged?—I am not aware that any have been.

2725. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you know of any who have been threatened to be discharged if they would not work?—Yes.

2726. What master can you name as having done so?—I have known some in our own place, in the establishment where I work, that have been told that if they could not attend to the time they must go.

2727. Mr. *Davison.*] Have you known more than one instance of persons being told that if they would not work the time they must go or be discharged?—I do not know of any other establishment, but I have known it to be done repeatedly in our place.

2728. Did I rightly understand you to state that you have known an instance in your own establishment where the workpeople have been threatened with dismissal if they did not work extra hours?—Yes, in our own place.

2729. Name any one person that you have so known?—I have known it myself.

2730. Has that been said to yourself?—Yes.

2731. Do you know any other?—I have known some of the girls to be so treated, but I am not prepared with their names.

2732. Mr. *Clark.*] On that occasion had you refused to work extra time?—I have told him that I have not felt that I could stand it; or I have been late in the morning, and I have expressed a desire to give over a little sooner, and they said that if any one could not stand their time they must get a fresh situation.

2733. Mr. *Davison.*] You were late in the morning?—Yes; I have often been late in the morning.

2734. Was it upon an occasion of that description that your master remonstrated?—Yes.

2735. And he said that if you could not abide by the hours you must leave the work?—Yes.

2736. Had not that clearly a reference to your not coming at the fixed ordinary time for work?—Yes.

2737. And that is the instance in which you yourself were threatened?—Yes.

2738. Is that the only instance in which you were threatened?—No; we have been told of it many times; in fact, I have thought of another party in the same place.

2739. Was that from not coming at nine o'clock in the morning?—Yes; he remained so late at night that he could not come so soon.

2740. Did not those threats that you speak of arise from not coming at an early time in the morning?—I have known them go away early at night, and they have been threatened with the same thing.

2741. Is that in your establishment too?—Yes.

2742. Was it the foreman, or any of the partners, that said that?—The master himself.

2743. Name him, if you please?—Mr. Harrison.

2744. Mr. *Turner.*] If you had been discharged upon that occasion should you have been afraid of not being able to get another situation?—Yes.

2745. Is there a surplus of that kind of labour in Nottingham; are there many men out of employment?—Yes.

2746. Why should not your master, instead of working such unreasonable hours, avail himself of some of this extra labour; why should they not work you 9½ hours, and have other men to work the additional time when additional labour is required?—I cannot say why they should not do it; we think it might be done.

2747. You get about 5 *s.* 2 *d.* a day when you are working long hours?—Yes.

2748. Is that a common thing among these men?—No; there are very few, I think, that get that.

2749. What do they ordinarily get?—I am hardly able to answer that; for it is a general thing among workpeople not to explain to one another what wages they get. I know that we have some that are getting 12 *s.* a week, and there are some that have more.

2750. Why should some be only getting 2 *s.* a day and others 5 *s.*?—They are not able, perhaps, to take the same parts of the work.

2751. Are you rather a skilful man in the trade?—Yes; I have been used to it more than some of them have.

2752. You would say that wages range between 12 *s.* a week and upwards of 30 *s.*; what is the ordinary wages obtained by a well-skilled workman for moderate times?—I should think 1 *l.* or 25 *s.*; there may be more or less; I cannot say particularly.

2753. To what kind of employment do the parents generally send their girls in Nottingham?—I know there are a great many who send them to these places.

2754. There are a great many occupations in Nottingham, and the people are peculiarly well dressed there; how do you think the women manage to make such a respectable appearance in Nottingham?—I am sure I cannot tell; I often think that the girls have not wages sufficient to support the body.

2755. Do you think that they lay it all out in finery?—I think the greater part of it.

2756. Is not that a high state of decoration to produce out of 5 *s.* a week?—Those that are getting to that state that they have an amount to spend for dress are getting more than 3 *s.* a week; those are children that I spoke of as getting 3 *s.*

2757. At what age?—From 13 to perhaps 16 or 17, or something like that; the elder hands get more money.

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2758. What do they generally get at 17?—Five or six shillings.

2759. Mr. *Davison.*] Up to what age do they get that?—From 17 to 25; some get more than that, perhaps.

2760. Mr. *Turner.*] Why do not the fathers of families send their children into the lace-works or warehouses, where there is abundant occupation for such young women?—I cannot say.

2761. Is there a great superabundance of labour of females in Nottingham, and are they generally pretty well employed?—I think the females are generally well employed.

2762. If one of those young women who gets her 3*s.* a week were dissatisfied with her situation in the finishing works, would she have any difficulty in getting another situation, where she would get better paid?—I cannot say; I have so very little knowledge as to what her employment may be.

2763. Those fathers of families may get from 20*s.* to 25*s.*, and in your case 30*s.* a week; why are they so eager to send their children to undergo those long hours for half-a-crown a week?—I believe many of the masters request them to send them; I think so.

2764. Why should they not previously send them to school?—I am sure I cannot answer that question.

2765. Is that the fault of the master or of the parent?—I should be inclined to think it was the fault of the parent.

2766. Can you attribute the fault to any one else but the parent?—No, I cannot.

2767. Mr. *Davison.*] When you say the master requests them to send the children, do you mean to say that it is quite voluntary?—I have known instances where, if they had not sent their children, they would have been obliged to leave themselves.

2768. Generally speaking, when they request them to do so it is a request?—Yes.

2769. If the fathers of families did not send them to work, but sent their children to be educated, are there not plenty of people wishing to get employment?—Yes.

2770. Are there not plenty of extra hands, according to your account?—Yes.

2771. Therefore would the master have any difficulty in getting hands if the parents did not send them?—No, there would not be any difficulty.

2772. *Chairman.*] Are those parents who seem to be so indifferent about sending their children to school tolerably educated themselves?—I believe not; they prefer going to sit in the public-house and spend the money that would educate their children; there are a great many of that class.

2773. Do many of the bleachers and finishers hold gardens in Nottingham?—There are many that have gardens.

2774. Mr. *Davison.*] Do I rightly understand you that it is the general practice for the working classes of Nottingham to spend their Sundays in the manner you describe?—Many of them do.

2775. Are there as many of them who do it as there are who do not?—I am sure I cannot say.

2776. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Is your employment very changeable and fluctuating?—No.

2777. Are you employed in your establishment throughout the year?—Yes, with the exception of about six weeks or two months in the year; we are rather slack in the autumn; but we have always plenty to go on.

2778. What length of time would you work during that six weeks or two months?—We should perhaps be making our full time then, 9½ hours a day.

2779. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it not the fact that the more money the parent gets from the working of his children, the more he will be able to enjoy himself on the Sunday?—Yes.

John Shelbourne, called in; and Examined.

John Shelbourne.

2780. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—A Finisher of Hosiery.

2781. In whose employment are you?—In Mr. Burton's.

2782. Where does he live?—At Old Baisford, near Nottingham.

2783. How long have you worked there?—Ten years.

2784. At what age did you first begin to work?—Eight years old.

2785. Had

2785. Had you received any education before you went into the works?—None at all.

2786. For whom did you work when you first began?—Mr. Milnes.

2787. Where does he live?—At New Baisford.

2788. Do you remember those early days sufficiently to tell the Committee what were the hours of work that you worked at Mr. Milnes's works?—Yes, I think I could.

2789. Will you tell the Committee what they were?—I think I worked from six in the morning till 11 or 12 at night, eight months in the year; and the other four months we were generally rather slacker.

2790. Were there women and young persons and children working those hours at Mr. Milnes's?—Yes.

2791. In what sort of proportion to the adult men?—I think there were about three women and children to one man.

2792. Did those women and children work the hours that you have described?—Yes.

2793. How many years ago would this be?—It was up to within five years ago.

2794. You were not in Mr. Milnes's employment then?—No; I worked for Mr. Milnes 10 years, and then for Messrs. Hard & Hurst 10 years, and from Messrs. Hard & Hurst I went to Mr. Burton.

2795. Did not the long hours at Mr. Milnes's, that you have described of your own knowledge, take place a considerable time ago?—Yes; they remained so for 26 years, until within the last five years.

2796. Can you speak of that of your own knowledge?—Yes; they remain the same.

2797. For whom have you worked since you left Mr. Milnes?—For Messrs. Hard & Hurst, the same bleach-works; Mr. Milnes died, and Messrs. Hard & Hurst continued them.

2798. How long did you work there?—Twenty years; 10 years with Messrs. Hard & Hurst and 10 years with Mr. Milnes.

2799. Were the same long hours continued after Mr. Milnes's death?—Yes.

2800. And the women and children working in the same way?—Yes.

2801. What year would it be when you left working at those works?—I think 10 years ago, now.

2802. For whom did you work when you left those works?—Mr. Burton, of Old Baisford.

2803. That is where you are working now?—Yes.

2804. Will you tell the Committee what were the hours of work when you first joined Mr. Burton's establishment, and what are the hours now?—The first five years we worked until 11 and 12 o'clock at night, generally; sometimes one and two if they were very busy.

2805. Beginning at what hour in the morning?—Beginning at six, and sometimes five.

2806. That was for the first five years?—Yes.

2807. Then what occurred afterwards?—All the working people of Old Baisford formed a kind of union to do away with working so many hours.

2808. What was the result?—We came to a stipulation to work from six in the morning to eight or nine at night; we managed to carry it on for four or five years till the masters broke through this union, which they did; and now they are continuing the same thing again, working from 11 to 12 at night, except the master that I work with now, who will not allow it; he will not allow us to work after nine, but the other firms go on on the old system of working from 11 to 12.

2809. Are the Committee to understand that that union of which you speak comprised the workpeople of several works?—Yes, all the trade in that district.

2810. And that at first all the masters of the district came into the terms proposed by the men?—Yes.

2811. But you say now that many of them have broken through those terms?—All except two, I believe.

2812. Can you tell the Committee at what hour the people leave work in all those works with the exception of the two you have mentioned?—Yes; I believe that, generally speaking, in heavy times of working, they are working from six in the morning till 11 and 12 at night, sometimes all night.

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2813. Do you mean for days together?—For weeks together, and months together in the winter season.

2814. Now with respect to Mr. Burton's works; what are the hours of labour at the present moment at his works?—Just now it is the slack time, and we are working from six in the morning until seven or eight at night; but he does not allow us to work after nine at any time; he says he thinks it too bad to work so many hours.

2815. Can you tell the Committee what the effect upon the women and young people working those long hours was, according to your own experience, from what you saw?—I believe it was a great injury to some of them; I have seen some grow ill sometimes, but not in many cases; the work did not injure all; some it did, and some it did not.

2816. In what sort of temperature is the work carried on?—In summer-time it would be 80 or 90.

2817. Are there any processes carried on by machinery?—Yes; there are engines and machinery in the bleaching department.

2818. Have women and children to work what is called against machinery in this department?—No.

2819. Is it all done by adult men?—By adult men and young boys.

2820. Of what sort of age will those boys be?—From 14 to 18.

2821. Are any of them now taken in as young as you yourself were?—Yes, in one department; there are two departments, the bleach-yard and the finishing department. In the bleaching department they require young boys only eight years of age, and when they get older they are put higher in the works.

2822. What number of hours will those young boys be worked?—At our works they work them from six to nine in the heavy time; now they are working from six to seven in our works.

2823. What hours are allowed for meals and resting?—Half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

2824. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you know any child as young as seven years of age that worked from six to nine?—Yes, there are some working not above seven years old; seven and a half.

2825. Do you work from six to nine?—Not at our works.

2826. What is the length of time at your works?—From six to seven in the slack time, in the summer.

2827. Are there any boys of that age?—Yes; I believe there are two or three from seven to eight or nine.

2828. Are there any earlier than eight years of age?—Only one in our place.

2829. *Chairman.*] Have you had any communication with Mr. Burton at all upon the subject of this Committee?—Yes; I told him I was to come up here; I asked him for leave to come up here: he said, "Yes; you must go and tell the truth when you get there, as far as you know." He said, "The system pursued by the masters is abominable." He said, "If the masters will go on with this sort of system, working people all night, they must expect to be legislated upon; it will serve them right."

2830. Can you tell the Committee how many workmen Mr. Burton employs?—I think there are about 400.

2831. Of that number, can you tell us how many are women?—I cannot exactly; there are two works, one at Baisford and one near Nottingham; at Baisford there are about 60 females.

2832. Not really working you imagine yourself?—Yes.

2833. Mr. *Davison.*] Are the continuous hours of work in all the different stages of bleaching, or do they apply to some one department in particular more than another?—No; generally speaking, when the heavy time comes they all work late hours.

2834. What is the occasion of the nightwork?—The pressure of work.

2835. Does that arise from orders coming in from merchants?—Yes.

2836. Are those young children that you speak of as in some instances being employed, in all the departments, or only in some particular branch of the trade?—They are only in one department.

2837. What is that department?—The finishing department.

2838. What are the ordinary hours of work, irrespective of pressure?—In the winter season the ordinary hours are from seven to seven, and in summer it is from six to seven.

2839. Does

2839. Does that include the hours for meals?—Yes.

2840. There is an hour for dinner, half an hour for breakfast, and half an hour for tea deducted?—Yes.

2841. That is two hours?—Yes.

2842. Mr. *Turner.*] Will you be so good as to inform the Committee at what description of work a boy of seven years of age is engaged 13 hours a day?—He turns stockings on his arm; it is very light work; they are bleached in the bleach-yard, and they have to be trimmed, and this boy turns them; it requires a little boy to turn them, that they may not be strained.

2843. *Chairman.*] Is there any difference between turning and tacking?—Yes.

2844. Will you explain to the Committee in what that difference consists?—The tacker takes them by the top of the toe before they go into the bleach-works, that is the first process; and then they go to the bleach-works, and then the finishing department, and those boys turn them.

2845. Mr. *Turner.*] He turns them inside out?—Yes.

2846. *Chairman.*] Are boys employed in the tacking?—Yes; they turn them round for the tacker.

2847. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Did Mr. Tremenheere visit your establishment?—Yes.

2848. Did you make any statement to him?—I was called up, and he asked me what time I was working, and I told him that our hours were from six to nine; I think it will be found in the book.

2849. Do you know whether he saw any other workman in the establishment?—Yes, he saw one.

2850. Did you state to him the evidence that you have stated before this Committee?—That was all I stated; he asked me what time I was working, and I told him the hours.

2851. He made no inquiry as to the agreement?—Not of me.

2852. Mr. *Davison.*] Did you know the object of his visit?—No, I did not; the master sent for me up, and he asked me before him what the number of hours was that we worked, and I told him.

2853. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Did he tell you he was a commissioner appointed to make inquiry into your condition?—No, he did not.

2854. Mr. *Davison.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that you had a union among the different workmen for the purpose of shortening the hours of labour?—Yes.

2855. Was that before Mr. Tremenheere went?—Yes.

2856. Was it broken up before he went?—It is now, but it was not then.

2857. Did he know all the facts that you have stated to-day with regard to over-hours, and that the union was formed to do away with the late hours?—No.

2858. How was it that you did not tell Mr. Tremenheere that?—I told him that we met together for the hours from six to nine.

2859. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Are you aware that in his report he has recommended that all the labour in Nottingham should be exempt from any legislation?—I was not aware of that.

2860. What is your own feeling, and that of the workmen, on that point; do you concur with Mr. Tremenheere?—Just as Mr. Tremenheere was down we were giving over at nine o'clock at night.

2861. Do you agree with Mr. Tremenheere in his recommendation that there should be no legislation on that point?—Yes, if it had been carried on as it used to be; but now the thing is broken up, we say that the long hours of work are a case for legislation.

2862. Then at the time that the union was in existence, you were satisfied with the arrangements that were made?—Yes, we were.

2863. Were not the arrangements made voluntarily between you and your employers?—Yes.

2864. Cannot you effect an arrangement again in the same way?—I do not know.

2865. Mr. *Davison.*] What were the hours that this union fixed upon?—From six to nine; then we take about three hours a day, or four hours.

2866. Would the trade have been perfectly satisfied with working from six to nine?—Yes.

2867. Mr. *Clark.*] Was the union broken up through the intervals of employment?—Yes, it was.

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2868. What was the way that they abolished it?—There came a depression of trade, and then they broke the union up altogether; and as soon as they broke up, the masters made their own hours.

2869. Would not that be the very reason why they would not press you to work extra hours?—If they had nothing to do one night, they would make the people work the next night to get the work done, if there were any orders.

2870. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do you know the earnings of the females of your establishment?—Yes, of many of them I do.

2871. What are they per week?—I think they average for women about 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week.

2872. And what for the boys?—The boys vary; some 3*s.*, some 2*s.* 6*d.*, some 2*s.*, some 1*s.* 6*d.*

2873. Did you hear the evidence of the previous witness?—Yes.

2874. Do you believe that any females that work in the lace finishing establishments obtain only 3*s.* per week?—I am sure I cannot say; it depends upon what size they are.

2875. Did you ever hear such a statement as that before?—No; I do not know that I ever did.

2876. *Chairman.*] Is the Committee to understand that your union was broken up by the masters?—Yes.

2877. That having been so, do you and your fellow-workmen think that this question of the hours of labour for women and young persons engaged at those works could be permanently and satisfactorily settled without legislative interference?—I think not; I do not think it could.

2878. Do you speak of your own opinion, or have you had conversation upon the subject with others engaged in the same trade as yourself?—I believe we petitioned Parliament last year for the Bill, women and children and all under work in the bleach-works.

2879. Do you tell the Committee that the feeling in general among the women and children engaged at those works is in favour of legislation?—Yes.

2880. Mr. *Davison.*] Supposing the trade had continued prosperous at that time, is it your opinion that the union would have been broken up?—I do not think it would.

2881. Would not the fact of the trade not being prosperous necessarily cast people out of employment?—Yes.

2882. Were not the people dissatisfied with that state of things?—Yes, they were.

2883. Do not you think that that would naturally lead to a demand for employment?—Yes.

2884. Do not you also think that that would be as reasonable a way of accounting for the breaking up of the union, as the masters wanting to force the people to work when they had no work to give them?—It was the masters and nobody else that broke it up; it evidently had regulated the trade for four or five years, and those four years were as heavy a time as I have ever known in the trade.

2885. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of any practical difficulties that were experienced by the employers in executing the orders they received in those four years?—Not any at all; the work was all done and sent home according to orders during that time, with few exceptions.

2886. That arrangement was carried on for four years continuously?—Yes.

2887. Mr. *Davison.*] Those hours being from six until nine?—Yes.

2888. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I think I understood you to say that during the time the union was in existence, your regular hours were in the summer from six to six, and in the winter from seven to seven; that was the day's work?—Yes.

2889. And anything beyond that was overtime?—Yes.

2890. *Chairman.*] Was not that, at the time of the union, restricted to nine at night?—Yes.

2891. Mr. *Cheetham.*] When you had overtime did it include your young people, the boys and women, as well?—Yes.

2892. Could you carry on the bleach-works without them?—Not very well without them.

2893. They must go on together, boys, women and men?—Yes.

2894. Can you tell the Committee whether, in any legislation, the workpeople would wish those hours to be maintained, or would they wish still more stringent regulations?

regulations?—I believe their opinion is to work as they do now; they think from six to six now is long enough.

2895. Mr. *Davison.*] Do you think that would apply to all the branches of trade where people are employed in large numbers?—I do not know; it would apply to our trade.

2896. You are not able to form an opinion as to whether it would be a proper provision with regard to other trades?—No, I am not.

2897. Mr. *Kirk.*] When you say from six to six, do you mean that those are the hours the whole week through?—Yes; except Saturday, and then we go home at four o'clock.

2898. Then you mean from six to six five days in the week, and from six to four on Saturday?—Yes.

2899. Would there be the same wages throughout for each day?—Yes.

2900. Do you expect that there would be any increase of wages in consequence of the decrease of hours?—No, I do not; I think it would regulate labour, but I do not think the wages would increase at all.

2901. What is your present time for a day's labour?—From six to seven.

2902. What are the intervals for meals?—Half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.

2903. Then your present day's labour consists of 11 working hours?—Yes.

2904. For how many days in the week does that last?—Five.

2905. What time do you go on Saturday?—On Saturday we stop at four o'clock.

2906. With what intervals?—Only for breakfast and dinner-time; that is, breakfast half an hour, and an hour for dinner.

2907. Your present week's work is 63½ hours?—Yes.

2908. By the arrangement which you propose, how many hours a week would you work?—We propose 10 hours a day.

2909. Would you still expect to get half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea?—I should think we should go on from dinner-time till we finished, very likely.

2910. You would throw off the half hour for tea?—Yes.

2911. At what hour on Saturday would you stop?—Four o'clock.

2912. Mr. *Clark.*] The last witness stated that in working ordinary times he earned 3*s.* a day, and for extra work 2*s.* 2*d.* a day; do you think that the operatives, as a body, would be satisfied to give up the extra pay of 2*s.* 2*d.* for the extra time?—I think they would; that is the general feeling I heard before I came up here.

2913. Does not that almost amount to half a day's pay?—Yes.

2914. Do you think, as a body, they would not only consent to it, but wish for it?—I think they would.

George Betts, called in; and Examined.

2915. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—Bleaching.

2916. In whose works are you employed?—In Mr. Fox's yard, it used to be; I believe it is Mr. Tebbet's now.

2917. Where is that?—At Old Baisford.

2918. How long have you worked there?—Twelve or 13 years.

2919. Was that the first place that you worked at?—No, it was not.

2920. Where did you first begin to work?—At Mr. Farren's.

2921. What age were you then?—Ten or 11.

2922. What were the hours of work when you first began working for Mr. Tebbet; first of all, what were your ordinary hours?—A day's labour was from seven till seven.

2923. How long were you working overtime?—For overtime, sometimes we were working from seven o'clock at night till, perhaps, twelve or one, or two in the morning; that would be very frequently the case.

2924. For how many days in the week would that be?—I have done that for six months running; and I have gone on all night occasionally.

2925. Do you mean that you have been engaged for six months working from seven in the morning till 11 and 12 at night?—That has been so.

 2926. Were

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2926. Were any of those who so worked, women and children?—There were some boys, about eight, from nine to nine, and the females as well were working those hours.

2927. Did you, during that time, ever hear complaints from the women or children about those long hours?—Yes; they were always fatigued, and ill sometimes, with working those long hours, and they stopped at home at different times.

2928. Were any of those people working against machinery, or not?—No; there is no machinery there.

2929. How long ago did this state of things exist that you are describing?—Thirty-two years ago.

2930. What is the state of things in that respect now, in your own experience; will you give us the hours which you are working now at Mr. Tebbet's?—Our hours are now from six till six for a day's work in summer-time, and from seven till seven in the winter; that is our time.

2931. Do you ever work overtime now?—Very rarely. When our union was established, we made an agreement that we would begin at six and end at six, for a day's labour, and were never to be allowed to work longer than eight.

2932. Does Mr. Tebbet still adhere to the terms of that union?—He is still satisfied with the terms that we were on then.

2933. He has not departed from the engagement which was entered into a few years ago?—No, not at all.

2934. Are you aware whether that is the case with respect to most of the bleachers?—I believe that most of the bleachers are working long hours again, the greatest part of them.

2935. Can you tell the Committee what those hours are?—From 10 to 11 and 12; and occasionally all night.

2936. What heat will the rooms be at in which those long hours are worked?—I am not able to state the heat of the rooms; they are the getting-up rooms, and I do not work in them; I am working in the open yard; but I have heard some say that it is from 70° to 80°.

2937. Mr. *Cheetham.*] That is where the females are working?—That is where the females are working.

2938. *Chairman.*] Is the labour of those women and children piece-work, or not?—Yes, the greatest part of the females work piece-work; the ironing, and part of the finishing-work is piece-work.

2939. In the works of those masters who have departed from the terms of the union, are the women and young people worked those long hours that you speak of?—Yes; I believe they do at the present time.

2940. Did you give evidence before Mr. Tremenheere some two years ago?—No, I did not.

2941. Did you hear of his visit to your master's?—Yes.

2942. Did he examine any of the workpeople?—I am not aware that he did at our firm.

2943. At that time were not the terms of the union in full vigour?—Yes, I dare say they were.

2944. Have any petitions been presented from the working bleachers of Nottingham upon the subject?—Yes, I believe there have.

2945. Can you tell the Committee whether they have been numerously signed?—I believe they have.

2946. Have you heard much conversation between your fellow-workmen upon the subject?—Yes; I have heard a great deal; the men we left pressed upon us to get rid of the long hours system if we could; they are not satisfied with working from seven to eight; even an hour of overtime they were not satisfied with; they would rather work the regular hours, and not work the overtime.

2947. Is that feeling shared by the women and children as well as the adult males?—Yes; I believe it is right through.

2948. Do the women and young people who express that opinion understand that they will not be paid the same as they were for working the overhours?—I am not aware that that question had been put to them.

2949. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Are there any establishments near yours that work these overhours?—Yes.

2950. Have

2950. Have you had any example of people leaving your establishment to go to those working long hours?—None; I believe we have some who have come from other establishments; we have three or four in our room; they have come to our establishment through the working of over-hours.

2951. Have you had any conversation with them?—I have not spoken with them upon the subject further than this; I have said, "Working long hours;" and they have said, "Yes;" that is all.

2952. They have given this reason to you for coming to your establishment?—Yes.

2953. Then your master, from working these long hours, has not lost any of his people?—No, not at all.

2954. *Chairman.*] Have you had any conversation with your master previously to coming here?—Yes; I showed him the summons, and he said that he was quite willing for me to come, and he wished me to speak the truth, and I came.

2955. Mr. *Davison.*] Do you complain of the present hours in your own establishment, from six to six in the summer, and from seven to seven in the winter, deducting the hours for meals?—They are satisfied with that.

2956. Are you also satisfied?—Yes.

2957. Do you think that those are fair and reasonable hours?—Yes, with two hours' meal-time out of every day.

2958. When do you quit on Saturday?—We give over sometimes at one o'clock, and sometimes at two; we very seldom are later than half-past two; the regular time should be four o'clock, but we give over as soon as we can.

2959. So far from experiencing any difficulty, there is no difficulty in getting plenty of hands when they want them?—We can get hands when we want them.

2960. Mr. *Packe.*] Is there any difficulty, if the people leave for working long hours, in their being able to get employment where they work shorter hours?—There are two firms that work shorter hours; but those two firms cannot employ every one; perhaps another case, if a party happened to leave one firm that was working the long hours to go to a master who was working the long hours, and gave the reason that he had left for working long hours, that master would not employ him, and it would be an impossibility for that man to come on.

2961. Then there would be a difficulty in some cases, if they left for working long hours, to get employment?—If they went from one firm to another where they were working long hours, and gave that as the reason why they did leave, perhaps they might not get put on there.

2962. Mr. *Davison.*] Do you know whether Mr. Tremenheere went to your establishment to examine any one?—I am not aware that he examined any one.

2963. *Chairman.*] Did you ever hear this subject discussed this year or the year before in Nottingham?—Yes; we have had a committee in Baisford.

2964. Are you aware of the nature of Mr. Tremenheere's Report?—No, I am not.

2965. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Have you ever heard any of the workmen state to you that your employment was not included in the last Bill before Parliament?—No; they never stated so much as that to us, for we thought we were so.

2966. Mr. *Packe.*] Was there ever any petition from Nottingham praying to be included in that Bill?—Yes, I believe there was; I think from most of the bleach-works petitions went up.

2967. *Chairman.*] Did you take any steps besides petitioning to get your trade included in the Bill?—I am not aware that we did, further than what I have mentioned between ourselves and the employers.

2968. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do you know the employment of finishing lace?—No; I do not know anything of that.

2969. Mr. *Kirk.*] How are you paid at the bleach-works of Mr. Tebbet?—We are paid by the piece.

2970. Then the harder you work the more wages you receive?—Yes, if we have the work to work at.

2971. Have not you constant employment at Mr. Tebbet's?—Yes; it ebbs and flows a little; some weeks perhaps we have a little less than we have in other weeks; we cannot say we have all weeks alike.

2972. Does not Mr. Tebbet finish for others?—Yes, for many of the hosiers in Nottingham.

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2973. Is not he liable to be asked sometimes to do more work at a certain time than at other times?—Yes.

2974. How do you manage to keep the hours under those circumstances?—We generally work an extra hour.

2975. What do you call an extra hour?—From six to seven.

2976. Then you do work extra time on your own work?—That is according to our rules that we have drawn up; but we are not satisfied with the extra hour; we are not satisfied with it at all; there is an impression in favour of 10 hours.

2977. Your impression is that you should work no more than 10 hours a day?—Yes.

2978. And do you expect that you will receive as much wages for the 10 hours as you are now receiving for 11?—We seldom work above 10; we do not expect to get quite as much, because we shall not have as much work to do.

2979. Do you expect that there will be the same amount of employment at the bleach-works whether you work shorter or longer hours?—I am hardly able to answer that question.

2980. What is the reason that other firms work overtime?—I am not able to answer for other firms.

2981. Do not the parties who work overtime receive more wages for that overtime than for their ordinary day's labour?—Of course they must receive something extra for the overtime.

2982. What inducement has the master to work overtime?—I cannot tell; our master does not find any fault; he is well satisfied with the time that we work.

2983. Mr. *Packe.*] Do not you in your establishment bleach and finish hosiery manufactured in the counties of Leicester and Derby, as well as in the county of Nottingham?—From Derbyshire I believe we do; from Belper; I cannot tell you whether they do it in other firms.

2984. Mr. *Kirk.*] Was not the arrangement that has been made by the trade considered by the trade as satisfactory?—Our masters were quite satisfied with it, and the people as well.

2985. When did they first begin to be dissatisfied with their hours, which appeared to be reasonable?—It was not that they were dissatisfied; they had been employed, and were satisfied.

2986. Do you want a reduction of the hours of work in your own establishment?—Not from six to six; we want the 10 hours, and no more.

2987. Do you do more now?—No, except at heavy times.

2988. Do you want to put a stop to that?—Yes.

2989. Is it the fact that you are satisfied with the ordinary hours of work of your establishment, but that you want to stop extra work?—Yes.

2990. Will not that affect the adult population very considerably?—I am not aware that it will.

2991. Do you think they will get the same wages if they do not work extra hours?—If they work extra hours they will get extra pay for it.

2992. Supposing they were not allowed to work extra hours, would they get less?—I have no doubt they might get as much.

2993. Do you think that whether they work long or short time they will get the same?—No.

2994. Is it your impression that by limiting the hours of work, and preventing extra work, the people will get as much wages as they do now?—It is my view, as far as it goes, that they will be satisfied with it.

2995. But in case there is a sacrifice they are quite ready to sacrifice the extra money they would get; do you think the opinion of the trade is that it is better they should not be allowed to do extra work at all?—Yes; but I have known the time, in the place where I worked, when my wife had been at work from two to three o'clock repeatedly, and then had to get up again at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and I believe that might be the case again if you do not prevent it.

2996. The people would rather not have the extra work; and their reason is, that without doing the extra work, they would earn as much wages under a Ten Hours' Bill; is not that your opinion?—I should hardly fancy it; they might not get as much, but the difference would be trifling.

2997. Mr.

2997. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you think that the operatives in Nottingham would be more regular if their hours were restricted?—Yes, I believe they would; it would regulate the work more at the different employments.

2998. Do you think that by that means the wages would be as good as they are now, since the workpeople would have more regular work, and would not have such a long time to work as they have now?—Yes.

2999. *Chairman.*] Supposing the Bill restricting the hours of labour is passed, and in consequence of that the people engaged in the bleaching business do not get quite as much pay as they get under the present system of working the extra hours, do you believe that the workpeople would wish that change to take place?—Yes, I am quite confident they would.

Mr. *Thomas Frederic Brownbill,* called in; and Examined.

3000. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee what you are by profession, and what your present engagements are?—I am a surgeon.

3001. Where do you reside?—At Salford; I am the medical inspector of the Salford Union Workhouse, and I have a few honorary appointments.

3002. Are you the Chairman of the Sanitary and Nuisance Committee?—I have been so for the last 15 years.

3003. Have you had many opportunities of observing the conditions of women and children and young persons engaged in bleaching?—Not so much in bleaching as in dyeing; I believe there are only one or two bleach-works at Salford, but there are a number of dye-works; I cannot speak so much to the bleaching department.

3004. Will you state to the Committee what is the impression produced upon your mind, by what you have witnessed, of the state of the women and young persons who have been engaged in the dyeing works?—From the opportunities I have had at various times of seeing the cases that I have been called to, the women particularly, I should say, that they have been labouring under a slow form of fever, perhaps begun with a little fatigue or lassitude or loss of appetite and thirst, and if the case went on further it assumed the form of low fever; some of them have rheumatic fever. In some other cases I have found that they had inflammation of the chest, or their breath has been affected.

3005. Can you ascribe those symptoms to any particular cause?—In many of the cases I cannot say; but often it has arisen from over pressure of work, from long hours in many cases, and from the heat of the place where they work.

3006. Have those observations which you have made, induced you to inquire at all into the nature of those hours of work?—Yes, I have inquired at different times, but not particularly now; I have, for some years back, not only in this, but in the factory system, had opportunities frequently of having such cases under my care; that has been for years back, before the Factory Act was passed.

3007. In the statement which you have made respecting the diseases to which those young people are subject, have you confined yourself to dye?—Yes.

3008. Have you made any inquiry as to the hours which those young people are subject to?—Yes, I have.

3009. Will you tell the Committee what the result of your inquiry has been?—They have varied from 12 to 18 hours upon an average.

3010. Between what ages were those children who had worked those long hours?—I have seen them under 10 years, I believe, but most of them from 10 up to 15 or 16.

3011. Will you tell the Committee, as a medical man, what in your opinion would be the extreme number of hours which young people of that age could work with due attention to their health?—I should think 10 or 10½, but I do not extend that of course to some of the children; their constitutions could not stand so much, inasmuch as they have tried it, and they had to discontinue it, while the others could get through it with comfort.

3012. What would be the effect upon the constitution of a young child of ordinary strength, of working those long hours?—It would debilitate the system, more particularly the nervous system, bringing on premature old age, and perhaps bringing on diseases of a character which are not brought on till a later period of life; for instance, some of them have inflammation of the lungs, and the disease assumes afterwards a chronic form, and in many cases the disease remains with

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them long afterwards; they become asthmatical, or troubled, as we may call it, with chronic bronchitis.

3013. Do you think that this system has a tendency to deteriorate the physical condition of the people who are subject to it?—Yes.

3014. Have you ever signed any petition to the Legislature praying for interference in this matter?—I did, about two years ago, and every medical man in Salford signed the same petition.

3015. Do you give that petition as expressing the opinion now, as it did then, of those medical men?—Yes.

3016. Has any thing occurred since to induce you to change the views which you expressed in that petition?—No.

3017. Would you, as a medical man, be glad to see those long hours of labour altered by Act of Parliament?—Yes.

3018. Mr. *Davison.*] Are you in the habit of attending the factory children now?—I am not inspector of factories.

3019. Do not you frequently see cases of the description you have referred to?—Yes.

3020. In your experience, do not you meet with cases of low fever among them, notwithstanding they are only working 10 hours?—Yes.

3021. And I suppose you have found loss of appetite among them?—I have found it among people working long hours. I have always asked the question how the symptoms set in, and I have invariably found want of appetite and increased thirst are the premonitory symptoms.

3022. Have you seen, in your attendance upon those factory children, cases where there has been low fever, loss of appetite, and thirst existing?—Yes.

3023. Are not those very common symptoms in a variety of cases?—They are.

3024. In those cases, without making inquiry from the parents of the children, were you of opinion this was the result of long-continued labour?—Nothing would induce those symptoms more than loss of rest and over-work.

3025. I think you used the expression that the constitutions of children vary very much?—Yes; I have known cases where there have been two or three in the same family working perhaps; one could stand the work, and another could not; and they have taken the child from work that it had been previously occupied upon, and put it to work of a lighter sort.

3026. Have you known some cases, with regard to certain pursuits in life, where children who were too delicate for them have been removed from them, and have got quite well?—Yes.

3027. *Chairman.*] With respect to females, are there a great number engaged in these processes?—From my own experience, I think there are a very few females engaged in those works in Salford. I had an opportunity of going through a large dye-work the other day, where there were 400 hands, and where there were only eight women engaged, and of them only one under 18 years of age.

3028. How many boys were there in that work?—From 80 to 100, and the remainder were men.

3029. I think you said that you have looked into the factory question a little?—Yes.

3030. Have you observed any change in the condition in the young women engaged in the factories since the passing of the Ten Hours Act?—Very much so indeed.

3031. Will you state to the Committee in what direction the change has taken place?—In their general appearance; I may state that I have now under my care in the workhouse, a number of people who were formerly employed in a factory, and who were disabled, from various causes, from following the employment; they are so now, and have been for many years.

3032. What is the present condition of the young people engaged in the factories?—Much better now than it was some years ago.

3033. Are you aware whether your opinion is shared by the great body of medical gentlemen of Bolton?—I am not; I speak only from my own experience, as regards their condition, and from having had so many opportunities from the cases I have had under my notice.

3034. Mr. *Davison.*] Are the different factories that are established in the town where you reside dyeing, and cotton, and spinning and silk works?—Yes; and there are many people employed in warehouses in various departments.

3035. Have you ever made any analysis of the comparative healthiness of the different branches of trade that you have met with in the course of your experience?—I have not lately.

3036. Have you ever published anything on that subject?—No; no further than some reports that I bring out for the Board of Guardians, containing statistical returns.

3037. Do you consider that, in legislation, the medical opinion of any gentlemen as to the unhealthiness of a particular trade would be a safe ground for the Legislature to proceed upon?—My opinion is, that if it is applied to one trade, it should be applied to others.

3038. Do you believe that if it is extended to one trade, it should be extended to all?—That is my opinion.

3039. Mr. *Kirk.*] In the large dyeing establishments where there were so many boys, what were the ages of those boys?—There was one that I asked the age of, and he was eight; I think that was the youngest; and the others seemed to be from 12 to 16 or 18; perhaps 14 or 16 would be the average; some were younger.

3040. Is it within your experience that those girls who were unable to work in the dye-works, or became unhealthy in consequence of such employment, went to a factory, and became healthy and strong there?—No; I never knew a case in which they went from a dye-works to a factory; I am not aware of a single case; they would not think they would be in a better condition by going to a factory. I have known them go to a silk mill, as they prefer that to the factories generally; it is a lighter work, and a cleaner occupation.

3041. Is a girl attending at a cotton factory in a peculiarly healthy position?—Generally, I think, they are rather paler in complexion than some of the others who work in other works.

3042. Are they more healthy in their general appearance, and have they better general health than those in dye-works?—I should say not so good, from my own knowledge.

3043. Has the cause of that come within your experience?—I think it is from the confinement in the mill; they are not so much closed up in the dye-works as they are in a factory.

3044. That is to say, they have more air and purer air?—They have in the dye-works.

3045. Do you think, therefore, even those dye-works are more healthy places for young persons than the factories?—That is my opinion.

3046. You spoke of persons who had been injured in factories for life; what did you mean by that?—I may state that many years ago there was a factory at Pendleton, and they got a number of children from a distance that were bound apprentices until they were 21 years of age; many of those are in the workhouse at present, and many have died; but they were certainly, soon after they were out of their time, unable to work at any regular employment; either distortion of the limbs, or disease of the lungs, or some physical disease that prevented them from earning their livelihood.

3047. How many years is it since that system ceased?—It is many years ago; I should think it is between 35 and 40 years; there are some of them in the workhouse now; I do not say the age, but they were quite young when they were bound, until they arrived at the age of 21, to work in the factory.

3048. By whom were they bound?—I do not know that I could state that.

3049. Were they charity children sent from the workhouse?—They came from a distance; I believe a great number of them came from Wales; I will give the Committee the gentleman's name and that of the factory if it is necessary.

3050. Do you give it now as your deliberate opinion that the employment of children in dye-works is a more healthy occupation than that of a cotton-mill, even with the present regulations?—Yes.

3051. Mr. *Cobbett.*] I believe you are connected with the Salford workhouse?—Yes.

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3052. It has come before your eyes, as I understand, to know the condition of some of the older workers in the factories?—Of some of them, not all.

3053. How long ago is it since you observed any one of those children that had been apprenticed for many years?—They are getting into years; there are some in the workhouse now who are 50 or 60 years of age, and some are younger.

3054. You say that the generality of those that are unhealthy had been unable to continue any longer in the employment, on account of their limbs being distorted?—Yes; every case that has come under my care in the workhouse has been in consequence of their not being able to pursue their employment from disease

3055. Have you, upon inquiry from them, ascertained that those were apprentices under the old system?—Yes, I have in every case.

3056. Do you see any such case as that arising among the factory people of the present day?—No, I have not seen any for a long time.

3057. Do you attribute that difference to the circumstance that the Legislature has interfered with the long hours of work under which apprentices became distorted in the manner you have described?—Yes.

3058. Therefore I presume you are generally in favour of limiting the hours of labour where they are found to be excessive, when it is practicable to do so, by legislative interference?—Yes; not only in the dye-works and bleach-works, but in other works as well, where it is carried on to that extent.

3059. Do you carry on your profession at Salford?—Yes, in Salford and Manchester.

3060. Is not a large part of your practice at Salford, among the people who work in the factories?—I attend many of them.

3061. Have you seen a great deal of them?—Yes.

3062. From what you have seen, is it your opinion that legislative interference ought to be adopted?—Yes. I should state, that being medical officer of the Salford Union, I have had several thousand cases under my notice, and I have an extensive private practice; and I am medical officer of several friendly societies, which gives me an opportunity of going among the operatives of various classes.

3063. And from your experience you have formed your opinion?—Yes. It is not from anything that I have prepared now, for I only knew on Saturday that I was coming here to-day; it is just from the facts that I have known, for the length of time that I have had the appointment and have been in practice.

3064. Mr. *Kirk.*] You used, in reply to a question put to you, the words, "other works;" what did you mean by that?—I was not alluding to any particular place; I was only alluding to any trades which work any children and young people beyond a certain number of hours.

3065. What do you mean by the word "child"?—I consider it to include boys under 18 years of age.

3066. Do you call those children?—They are not men or women under that age; they may vary; I am not fixing any particular year.

3067. Do not you know that the Factory Act recognises two classes of persons, one is called "child or children," and the other "young person or persons"?—I do not. It may be very proper to call them young persons; I am not a medical officer of factories, or an inspector; I do not know the ages to which they limit the term.

3068. Are you of opinion that it would be better that they should not go to any of these employments in the factory which you think are unhealthy until they are 11 or 12?—Twelve or thirteen is early enough; my opinion is that they should not, any of them, go younger.

3069. Mr. *Baxter.*] Would you extend the legislative restriction in the case of long hours to all trades and employments whatever?—Yes, where the length of time is great.

3070. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You would do that where it is practicable?—Yes.

3071. Mr. *Kirk.*] I suppose you would not go so far as a medical gentleman that has been before us, who thought that it should extend to maids of all-work?—No, I do not think I should.

3072. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you advocate the same regulation in the case of grown men?—It depends a good deal upon what any one can stand.

3073. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would you extend it to farm servants, for instance?—I

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question whether their occupation is such that you would be able to extend it to them; they are not continually working as the factories and mills are; there is not that confinement, therefore.

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3074. Mr. *Baxter.*] Then you would except certain occupations?—My observation went more to children, the ages that they are employed in those bleaching works; I am not speaking at all of grown-up persons.

3075. Mr. *Clark.*] Do you find that the parents of these children object to long hours?—As a general rule I do not.

3076. Then is not it as much their fault as the master's?—In some cases I think it is.

3077. Do you think the parents would be disposed to oppose any legislative measures that would restrict the long hours?—I could not say; I have never had any conversation upon it with them.

Mr. *James Gilbroy*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Gilbroy.*

3078. *Chairman.*] WILL you be good enough to state to the Committee your occupation?—I am the principal manager of Messrs. James Young & Sons' works.

3079. How many people are employed there?—There are upwards of 300 there just now.

3080. Among those how many are women and children and young persons?—There are about 200 women, I think, just now; we have sometimes more.

3081. Mr. *Kirk.*] Where are Messrs. James Young & Sons' works?—At Auld Housefield, in Pollockshaws.

3082. What are your present hours of work?—Our regular hours of work are from six to seven each day, generally for five days in the week.

3083. Do you ever work over-hours?—Yes, we do.

3084. When you work over-hours what are your hours of work?—They are regulated very much according to the necessity for doing so.

3085. Do you allow no other limit than the limit of necessity?—Yes, we do; it is a very important case if we go beyond 11 o'clock at night, or sometimes 12.

3086. Will that be for many days together?—We endeavour if possible not to exceed three successive days in that way; from six in the morning till 11 or 12 at night.

3087. Would the same people work the three days and three nights up to 11 o'clock?—We have done that frequently; but we do not wish to do it if we can avoid it at all.

3088. I believe you gave evidence yourself before Mr. Tremenheere?—Yes, I did.

3089. Have you any observations which you wish to make to the Committee upon the evidence which appears there, reported as having been given by you?—No; I think it is substantially correct.

3090. Has anything occurred in the trade, or in any of the processes of it, since you gave that evidence, to alter any of the opinions you have given?—No; the practice is a little altered now from what it was then, in so far as we had an arrangement to work only 66 hours a week.

3091. Has that arrangement been departed from?—That arrangement has been departed from.

3092. How many hours are you working now?—We are very much upon the old system now; we still adhere to 66 hours as being a week's labour, for which we pay a week's wages; but we do not confine ourselves to that, and say they shall not work for more than 66 hours a week.

3093. Is the Committee to understand that you have departed from that arrangement now, and that, with the exception you have stated to us, you would hardly have any limit to the number of hours you work?—We should not, in almost any case, exceed 12 o'clock at night; but that is, I think, only owing to pushes.

3094. At the present time, does it happen that the women and young children are employed in your works from six in the morning till 11 or 12 at night?—Yes, at occasional times; but just now we can scarcely keep going regular hours.

3095. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you work the same number of hours now as when you gave evidence to Mr. Tremenheere?—That arrangement was entered into pretty largely

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largely with a number of the masters; but a good many of them fell gradually through it, and we followed the rest. If we got an order which was not quite so large as to enable us to employ a complete night-shift, that is to say, an entire relay of hands, we made up the additional work that we had to do by working the hands that we had a little longer.

3096. *Chairman.*] What is the heat of the rooms in which those females and young children are employed?—We have various heats.

3097. Will you state to the Committee what those various heats are?—In the larger houses they range from 80 to 100, and we have one or two more of the departments of work as high as 120; but I should say from 90 to 110 is the more general average.

3098. Taking that as the general heat, are there women and children employed in those rooms?—Yes.

3099. Is the Committee to understand they may be now employed from six in the morning until 11 at night in that temperature?—Yes.

3100. How many hours for rest and meal times will they have?—When the hands are working from six in the morning till 11 at night they have an hour and a half between six in the morning and seven at night; and then if the hands go on till 11, we do not work at all between seven and eight, and we go on from eight till 11 o'clock.

3101. That is to say, they have 2½ hours altogether out of the 17?—Yes.

3102. May I ask you what the effect upon the women and young children so engaged is?—We find, in our experience, that when it comes to be required to work a third night in that way, there are a good many absentees upon the following morning from the work, which I dare say may be from fatigue, from this long working; at least, it occurs frequently that they are absent.

3103. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you think that habitual overtime is profitable to the employer?—No, I do not.

3104. *Chairman.*] Could you state to the Committee what is the effect in the production of work?—We can produce a great deal more in working the greater hours; but I have no doubt that if we had regular hours, from one year's end to the other, we could produce more than we do at present in our uncertain way.

3105. Do you think the quality of the work is at all deteriorated by long hours?—If we have particular work to do we do it always in the day; we select that work for day-work, generally.

3106. Mr. *Baxter.*] Why do you do that?—Because it is not so well done at night.

3107. Why is it not so well done at night?—There are various causes that combine, but very often we are pushed; there may be a great hurry; they may be wanted the next morning before they can work, so that we must get out the goods at night, and the next day we finish the fancy goods, printed muslins and such like, at the time of those great pushes; goods are put out at night to be in the next morning, and of course it is hard work to get them in.

3108. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do you think that those pushes cause bad work?—Yes, we cannot look so much to it.

3109. And when done is it as well done as if they worked more regularly?—If we are working more regular hours, the people certainly do it better; they come every morning fresh to the work.

3110. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that you are in favour yourself of some restriction of the hours of labour?—I have always held the opinion that a restriction upon the hours of labour would be a good thing.

3111. I think you have stated in detail that recently you did not work those long hours, owing to an arrangement which you have come to with your work-people?—We have had an arrangement, I think, for more than a year.

3112. But you have given it up at last, in consequence of the other employers of labour departing from a similar arrangement?—Yes; we heard no more word of it; the workers said nothing about it, neither did we. We work as we find the necessity come on; at the slack season we forget our former arrangements.

3113. Has the question been at all mooted among the employers of labour in the business whether a restriction could be produced by voluntary arrangement?—I have heard that that is talked over among meetings of the masters.

3114. In the instance you have described, it has been tried and has failed, and having

having been tried, the masters have given it up?—It was reported to us that such and such a one had given it up, and so it went on.

3115. Mr. *Cobbett.*] That is to say, they have broken their arrangements?—They have broken their arrangements; I may perhaps make the remark, that although it was understood that 66 hours was the week's work, it was not definitely fixed that we were only to work 11 hours a day.

3116. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are the masters generally in the west of Scotland in favour of restricting the hours of labour in bleach and dye-works?—I could not speak of the majority; some of them are and some are not.

3117. Are you aware that they have not sent up deputations to London when the Bill was before Parliament, nor taken any active part against them?—They have taken no active part.

3118. Does not that show that they are indifferent to the matter?—Yes.

3119. Whereas the employed have been very anxious for the Bill?—Yes; they are very anxious for the Bill.

3120. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you infer from that that the masters acknowledge that evils at present exist?—Yes; I think some do so.

3121. At all events they are not unwilling that the present remedy should be applied?—Yes; I am of opinion that the masters, many of them, would say that a Bill, or any such definite arrangement, would be a good thing for the trade, for this reason, that it comes in a shape that they could depend upon.

3122. Are all the works in the west of Scotland, the cotton bleaching and dyeing works, like those in Lancashire and Cheshire?—No, there are different descriptions of goods.

3123. Are not the processes much the same, and the hours of working?—They are done in a different way in Lancashire; there their heavy goods are finished in a different mode; they are finished in a different way; there is a different finish upon them, and they are handled in a different way altogether.

3124. Are not the temperature of the rooms and the hours of labour very much the same?—I am not aware that the temperature would be the same; the goods require a different finish, and they are not finished in houses of the same description.

3125. Is the temperature lower or higher?—I fancy that a good deal of the Lancashire work would be done at a lower temperature than ours.

3126. Are you aware that in Lancashire and Cheshire they have exceedingly long hours of labour, and the system of overtime not much unlike your own?—I have heard that it is so, but I am not aware of it.

3127. Are you personally acquainted with the dye-works?—No.

3128. You do not know whether it is desirable to extend the provisions of the Bill to works of that description?—I could not say that.

3129. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You spoke of having entered into an arrangement among yourselves to limit the hours of work; have you done that more than once?—The time that I remember myself, particularly, was the time when they made it 66 hours a week.

3130. When was that?—It was in 1855.

3131. Was there any memorandum?—Yes.

3132. A number of the masters signed their names to that document?—I believe they signed their names at the time they entered into the arrangement.

3133. Was your firm among them?—Yes.

3134. Did I rightly understand you to say that you broke through it ultimately yourselves, because you found the others did it?—Yes; we were not the first to break through it; we kept it faithfully for a year or more, but we were not bound down to 11 hours a day; we might work the 66 hours in five days a week, and allow them to go idle the other day; so it was overtime.

3135. Of course, as you are in favour of the limitation of the hours of work, you do not fear that any damage will occur to your goods by leaving off when the process has begun at a certain hour, and resuming it again the next day?—I have not the least apprehension of any danger in that way; we could regulate the work as we do now, to stop at the hour we do stop at.

3136. When you gave an account of the hours of work in the trade, I suppose you were speaking of your own establishment?—Yes, entirely.

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3137. Have you connected with your establishment what they call a women's house?—No.

3138. Do you know that there are places of that kind?—No.

3139. There are women's houses in Pollockshaws, are not there?—I am not aware that there are any now; I believe they had at one time a women's house connected with our establishment, but that was before I went to it,

3140. Is there one in the neighbourhood of Pollockshaws?—They have them in the neighbourhood of Paisley.

3141. How far is Pollockshaws from Paisley?—About six or seven miles.

3142. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are not there works in the west of Scotland besides those for the bleaching and dyeing of cotton fabrics?—Yes; they are principally engaged in the finish of silk goods and woollens.

3143. Do they bleach and dye woollens and silks in the same works that they bleach and dye cottons?—We do not bleach and dye much in our works; we generally finish; the bleaching and dyeing is connected with that description of work.

3144. Is there not a great deal of silk goods bleached and dyed in Scotland?—Yes, there are a good many dyers of woollens; there are two or three piece goods' dyers, but they work principally woollens.

3145. Mr. *Davison.*] Does part of the evidence you have given apply to the woollen business as well as to the cotton?—Yes; we were very extensively in the woollen trade, but we have given up that branch of the business for some years.

3146. But other houses continue it?—Yes.

3147. *Chairman.*] Would you tell the Committee what your opinion is as to including or excluding the houses that bleach woollen goods from the operation of the Bill?—I think the woollen trade could be included as well as any other.

3148. Mr. *Cobbett.*] What are the woollen goods that are made in that part of Scotland?—Mostly garments for ladies; some of them cotton, and woollen, and plaids, and shawls, and cloths; but they are scoured before being printed.

3149. Does not that constitute a large part of the trade?—Yes, in some districts.

3150. Is not it so in Paisley?—Yes; Paisley does the shawl trade as well as woollen.

3151. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are plaids made in England as well?—Yes.

3152. Are you not aware that there are a great many making in Manchester now?—There are more than there have been for many years.

3153. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it your opinion that the woollen trade should be included in the Bill as well as the cotton trade?—Yes, certainly.

Lunæ, 29° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Lord John Manners.	

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Daniel Richmond*, called in; and Examined.

3154. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee your occupation?—A Surgeon.

3155. Where is it you reside?—In Paisley.

3156. How many years have you practised your profession in Paisley?—Twenty-three years.

3157. Has your experience during those 23 years enabled you to give an opinion to this Committee as to the nature of the employment of women and young persons in bleaching or dyeing establishments?—I may state that I have been since infancy residing in Paisley, where there is an extensive manufacturing population, where we have factories of almost every description. My father was a medical practitioner, so that I have had opportunities of knowing the condition of the working population for a very long time; and I held an appointment for a short time under the Factory Bill, so that I am somewhat acquainted with the nature of the operation of the Factory Bill. I have attended patients connected with almost all the bleaching fields in the neighbourhood of Paisley, and I have had the exclusive charge of one of the largest bleaching establishments of the neighhourhood of Paisley. I refer to Blackland Mill.

3158. Who were the proprietors of those works?—Edward Hamilton & Son, I think, is the name of the firm.

3159. Can you tell us how many persons are employed in those works?—I believe the Blackland Mill Company employ upwards of 300 workers.

3160. Of those, how many would be women and children?—On an average upwards of 300 are women and children; I think about 300 is the average number of females.

3161. I think you told us you are the appointed medical attendant of those works?—I have acted in that capacity for upwards of ten years.

3162. Will you give the Committee the benefit of your experience during those 10 years as to the effect of the occupation on the health and condition generally of the women and young persons so employed?—The workers, in my opinion, were exposed to four evils. The first unfavourable condition of their employment was their being constantly working in the erect position; they were constantly on foot; the second was the great artificial heat to which they were exposed while employed.

3163. Will you state to the Committee what the artificial heat was?—It varied from 90 to 130 degrees, according to the quality of the cloth; light cloth required a lower temperature, heavier cloth required a higher temperature; so it varied on an average from 90 to 130 degrees.

3164. What is the third?—The third is the sudden transition from heat to cold; the temperature of the place where they work; the sudden transition is what I refer to; leaving work during meal times, at morning and night, and upon other necessary occasions, going out from an apartment at from 100 to 130 degrees into the open air, perhaps in winter; and fourthly, the long hours to which they were exposed.

Mr. *D. Richmond.*

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3165. Will you state to the Committee what those hours are that you complain of?—I believe the average time at present is about 11 hours a day, but formerly the average time was 12 hours a day; but, on occasions, they were forced to work for a much longer time; sometimes continuously for 16 hours a day. At other times they would work 12 hours for three days a week, and 18 hours a day for the other three days of the week.

3166. Do you mean that the same persons will work 12 hours for three days in the week, and 18 hours for the other three days?—The same persons.

3167. And do those hours obtain now, or are you speaking of a state of things which has altogether passed away?—I believe that, in consequence of the representations of the workers, the masters have met them in a friendly spirit, and that they have voluntarily agreed to an alleviation of those hours; but it is now reduced to 11 hours a day, with the mutual consent of masters and workers.

3168. Does that consent obtain in other establishments, or are you speaking merely of Messrs. Hamilton's?—No, I believe it has been a very general arrangement; and I am personally acquainted with most of the master bleachers in that locality, in the neighbourhood of Paisley, and I believe they are all willing that the time should be limited to 10 hours a day. I believe that feeling is very general.

3169. Before you came up to London, had you any opportunity of conversing with Messrs. Hamilton on the subject?—I have not conversed lately with them on that subject, but I believe it was the general feeling.

3170. And among the workpeople whom you attended, what is the general feeling among them?—I believe the feeling among them is this, that they feel on better terms with their employers in consequence of the concessions that have been made. In speaking of the exertions of Parliament, I believe they have had a favourable effect upon the population in the neighbourhood of Paisley. Paisley has been rather notorious for being a place where ultra-radicalism has prevailed; but I believe the feeling now is, that they can look to Parliament for the redress of every just grievance, and that has had the effect of attaching them to the British Constitution, and a feeling of loyalty is, I may say, universal amongst our manufacturing population.

3171. Have you had any opportunities of knowing what are the feelings of persons engaged in the bleaching-works with respect to any proposed legislative enactment interfering with the hours of labour in their own employment?—There is, in the first place, a profound feeling of necessity.

3172. Do you believe that there is no difference of opinion among the working classes upon that subject?—I am not aware of any among the working people; there is very little difference of opinion even looking at the employers; the most benevolent of the employers are most anxious that they should be protected against the cupidity of a sordid few.

3173. You have given the Committee the four points to which you think the unrestricted system of working in the bleaching-works is prejudicial to the health of the persons so engaged; what are the effects produced by these four causes upon the health of the persons?—First, in reference to the erect position, I would say that varicose veins, that is, a swollen condition of the veins of the leg, is a very common complaint. It is a complaint to which shopkeepers are liable from their constant standing position, and to which workpeople in the factories are subject, but it is still more frequent in bleaching-works in consequence of the great heat. I know that varicose veins, and swellings of the leg, and extensive ulcerations are very common; and sometimes those ulcerations eat into the veins, causing very extensive and dangerous bleeding. I have known the workers bleed almost to death in a very short time; one young woman in particular has been twice at the gates of death in consequence of these ulcers eating into the varicose veins of her leg. Rupture is another thing that is very common amongst them in consequence of the constant standing. Then next, as to the artificial heat, most of these females are young girls from the Highlands, and from Ireland; they frequently come with a plump and healthy appearance, but that very soon disappears; they become pale, and thin, and weakly; they become subject to dyspepsia or indigestion; they become subject to constipation of the bowels, and to bilious complaints; they become subject to nervous diseases, hysteria, irritation of the spinal nerves, to severe neuralgic headache; and one thing which I found to prevail almost univer-

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sally among them was a derangement of those functions peculiar to them as females. Again, from the sudden transition from heat to cold they were very liable to inflammatory complaints, generally to sore throat, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, pleurisy, inflammation of the liver, and other abdominal viscera, chronic and acute rheumatism, particularly in the foot. I found that was a very common complaint, from the excessive heat of the apartment where they work. They were often employed without shoes and stockings, and they very often went out in that condition into the open air; this often brought on a rheumatic complaint of the foot of a very obstinate character, and it appeared to me that some of them were lamed for life in consequence of that. Then, as to the long hours during which they were engaged, I would say this is not merely an evil in itself, but it rendered the constitution more liable to suffer from the other causes I have assigned.

3174. Will you tell the Committee what, in your opinion, would be the effect, not upon the actual generation of young women who are working these long hours, but upon the next generation to whom they may give birth?—I should say that these influences would not merely affect themselves injuriously for life, bringing on premature old age, and making them less able for the discharge of their functions as mothers; but that it would have an injurious effect upon their posterity, and that it would ultimately, and does actually, lead to a great increase of the pauperism of the country.

3175. Do you mean by a great increase of the pauperism of the country, that the generation of children now springing up would be unable to obtain their own subsistence from work?—Yes; I should say both themselves and their families would often sink into a condition of pauperism consequent upon the effects I have assigned.

3176. Have you any other observations to make bearing upon this class of questions?—With regard to the time they are employed, they are sometimes employed for a short time, sometimes for full time, that is up to the 12 hours' employment, and sometimes overtime. There is a sort of barracks provided for the female workers, what they are in the habit of calling a woman's house, and I could generally tell from the appearance of the woman's house whether they were working short time, long time, or full time. When they were at work short time, they were generally all at their employment, and the sick list was very light; when they were employed for 12 hours a day, the sick list was heavy, unusually heavy; but when they came to work 16 hours a day, or for 18 hours a day, perhaps for three days in the week, the amount of sickness was positively distressing.

3177. Do you happen to have any figures with you that will show this?—No; the nature of my engagement was such, that I did not require to keep any notes at the time, so that I do not possess any statistics; but that is the impression left upon my mind from an experience of 10 years.

3178. Is the woman's house now in operation?—It is still in operation. I believe the Messrs. Hamilton particularly, from humane considerations, have made very great improvements in the state of the woman's house; they have reduced the number allowed to remain in it; formerly it was in a most crowded, unhealthy condition; and I found when I was obliged to treat cases of disease in the house, which I was frequently obliged to do, that the confined atmosphere had a most injurious effect upon my patients. I found after giving great relief, in a case of acute disease for instance, that from the close and heated atmosphere during the night, by next morning my patient was as ill as ever; and I think that where such houses exist, it will be requisite that they should be put under some public arrangement, in order to protect the females who are residing in them.

3179. What number of females were lodged there?—Here again I am at a loss to supply figures, but I may say at once the number was excessive in proportion to the accommodation.

3180. Was the house attached to the works?—The house was attached to the works. The wards have often been not merely crowded with beds, but there have been as many as three workers in each bed.

3181. You mention that when there were these long hours or overtime, the sick list was very heavy; what was the practice when the sick list was heavy; were the patients removed into other wards, or did the sick and disabled women remain in the same ward as those who were going to their work?—The time

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that I attended the works they were confined in the same apartment with the healthy, but I believe since that they have been more frequently removed to the public infirmary of the town, or to the poor's hospital—the workhouse. I may say here that the agitation that has taken place has been conducted in a friendly spirit, and the masters have shown a willingness to meet the people, and have made many concessions towards them, and the general desire is that all this should be reduced into the shape of a Parliamentary enactment, and that such a thing would be found for the mutual advantage of all parties concerned in the trade.

3182. I suppose we may assume that the origin of this woman's house was a kind intention to protect the women, and to keep them together?—Yes, the intention was good originally, although abuses have crept into the system. I would say that I consider, from my experience in connexion with visiting other factories, that the bleach-works really are more in a situation to require the protection of a 10 hours' Bill than the workers in any other factory whatever.

3183. And you give that opinion to the Committee as the result of your medical experience for many years in the town of Paisley?—Yes.

3184. Mr. *Davison.*] You say that in your opinion these women's houses should be put under some public arrangement?—Yes.

3185. And a doctor appointed to them, I suppose?—The inspector might have power to say whether he thought they were overcrowded or ventilated.

3186. Would it not be a good plan to appoint a doctor to them?—I think it would.

3187. You have had experience in other factories under the law?—Yes.

3188. Does your experience enable you to state whether you have ever seen any pale girls there?—Yes; that was a very marked circumstance before the operation of the Factories' Acts.

3189. But do you mean to say that you do not know girls coming into the factories under the short-hours system ruddy and fat, and afterwards getting excessively pale and thin?—That does take place, certainly.

3190. But not so great as in the other case?—Not so great.

3191. And you have known girls, I suppose, in the other places subject to dyspepsia?—Yes.

3192. And to indigestion?—Yes.

3193. And the other complaints that you have stated?—Most of them, but not subject to the same transition from heat or cold; and in none of the factories are they exposed to the high temperature, so they are able to bear it better; but, in the stoves of the bleaching-works, they break down sooner than they do in any factory that I have been acquainted with.

3194. Mr. *Kirk.*] You have stated that the erect position is exceedingly injurious to health; that was your first point, I think?—Yes; I mean not so much injurious to health as acting mechanically; the whole weight of the circulation rests upon the blood vessels in the limbs, producing varicose veins and a tendency to swelling.

3195. And you think that an hour a day would produce the difference between health and sickness under these circumstances?—Not altogether so, but it would certainly make some difference to the advantage of health; even one hour a day would be of some benefit; it would not do away entirely with the evil, but it would enable them to bear it better.

3196. Have you been in any of the stoves connected with bleaching-works lately?—Not very recently.

3197. When were you last there?—Perhaps not for a year or two.

3198. Do you know whether there is a draft or current of fresh air admitted into those stoves?—I do not think that there is any regular provision made for that.

3199. Are you not aware that you could not dry a piece of muslin without an amount of fresh air introduced into the stoves?—Yes; but that is accidentally by the doors and windows being opened.

3200. Is it not the fact that in every stove there must be something of a window where they are drying muslin or cambric and a draft of fresh air, or that otherwise they could not dry; do you know that or not?—I have been in stoves without observing that; my attention has not been called to the stoves so particularly.

3201. Then you have been giving evidence about a thing about which you do not know?—I know that I have frequently passed through stoves, and have felt the excessive heat. I know that that heat was artificially produced, and I have seen the effects of that heat. With regard to the way in which they are ventilated, I do not speak so positively.

3202. But would not a continuous stream of fresh air very much conduce to the health of the workpeople, where that air is necessarily pure?—Yes, that I concede at once; all you contend for.

3203. I am not contending for anything; I want an answer to my question?—Supposing I concede that, still the deteriorating effects are very great.

3204. Do you know, one way or the other, anything about it?—I am willing to admit that there is a provision for fresh air.

3205. And that that is conducive to health?—And that that, so far, is conducive to health.

3206. Is there any provision of a similar kind in spinning mills?—Yes, in almost all the mills that I have observed.

3207. What provision is that?—They have a window regularly opened.

3208. That is the upper part of the window?—Generally.

3209. As contra-distinguished from the stream of fresh air coming in at the lower part of the stove?—I speak from memory merely.

3210. Do you, as a medical man, mean to tell the Committee that a current of air admitted by the top of the window being opened, where a girl is breathing fumes of oil and particles of cotton and flax, or anything else that may be floating in the atmosphere, is more conducive to health than the admission of fresh air in the way I have described?—I believe that a supply of air from below will be more conducive to health than a supply of air from above.

3211. Yet you have stated most positively that these persons in bleaching-works are less healthy than persons in other occupations?—That arises not so much from the want of ventilation as from the excessive heat that is maintained.

3212. Then your observation applies simply to those who are employed in stoves?—Yes.

3213. Have you any idea how many persons were employed in stoves in this mill that you attended for 10 years?—Very nearly 300.

3214. In the stoves?—In the stoves.

3215. Do you know Robert Stewart, of that mill, either a manager or partner in it?—I do not remember the name.

3216. He gives testimony, and he says that there are 130 females engaged in stretching and dyeing out of the 300; of course the other 170 are in different employment?—They have stoves of different descriptions, some of one kind and some of another, but I understand that all females, with very few exceptions, were employed there. They have a boiling-house, where the preliminary portions of the work are conducted, and they have a few females employed there; they are also employed in conducting the washing operations, and the appearance of those females is generally a great contrast to that of the females employed in the stoves.

3217. Have you any positive idea as to the number of men and boys, and females even, included in the establishment of which you had charge for 10 years?—The females would average about 300, and the men and boys about 30 or 40.

3218. Have you any idea of the ages of those females?—The greatest number of them were from 15 to 25, or 30, and a few of them were older than that.

3219. Then whom did you refer to some time ago when you spoke of young children?—They have a number of married persons about the place, and sometimes the male and female children are employed.

3220. Sometimes?—I may say constantly, where they are made to work; they work under the eye of their parents; but the number of children is small, as compared with young men.

3221. What age do you understand by the word "children"?—Those who are under 12 or 13 years.

3222. How many were of that number at one time employed, of your own knowledge?—Comparatively few, perhaps not above 10.

3223. Eight or 10?—Eight or 10, or 20.

3224. Then of the 300 you speak of, there are only eight or 10 children?—Yes; the number was always small.

3225. What did you mean by the words "forced to work;" who forced the

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people to work?—Their circumstances forced them; obliged them to comply with whatever might be required.

3226. Do you know how they were paid, whether by the piece or by the day?—I think by the day, but I cannot be positive upon that point.

3227. You have been speaking of these women's houses, as you call them; who built or prepared them?—They have been built by the proprietors for the accommodation of their workers.

3228. Do you know what rent they charge?—I am not aware that they charge any rent.

3229. Then they simply built them for the accommodation of their workers?—I believe so.

3230. And do not charge any rent?—I am not aware of it.

3231. Yet although they have done this of their own free will to serve their workpeople, you think they ought to be put under law?—Yes; I think it would be necessary to protect the health of these young persons, and it would be a very simple thing to do it.

3232. Would it not be as simple to let the workpeople go and find lodgings for themselves; would not that be the natural course of affairs?—Sometimes the bleaching-fields are at such a distance from a town, or even from a village, that it is absolutely impossible they can do so; Burnfield and Paisley are four miles apart.

3233. Do not the women who go to these houses desire to go; they are not forced to go there, are they?—No, they are not forced, except by their necessity.

3234. They go there of their own free will?—Of their own free will.

3235. And for which they pay nothing?—I will not say that they pay nothing.

3236. Do you not believe that they pay nothing?—I am not aware of that positively; I cannot speak positively upon the subject.

3237. Mr. *Davison.*] Was it not an act of humanity on the part of the masters to provide these houses for the women?—Yes, I believe it was.

3238. Is it not notorious; do you not know it; have you any doubt upon the subject?—No, I have no doubt.

3239. Let me clearly understand you; you think that these houses, provided by the humanity of the employers, and for which no rent is charged, ought to be put under public inspection; is that your view?—Yes.

3240. You think they should?—I think they should, to prevent them becoming a nuisance, as I have seen them.

3241. You think these houses are a nuisance, then?—As I have seen them.

3242. Do you mean to convey to this Committee, that these houses so provided by the masters are public nuisances?—I mean to say, without saying how they are provided, that I have seen them overcrowded, that I have seen them productive of injurious consequences, and I have often had to lament, as a medical man attending them, the evil effects resulting from them.

3243. Is it your opinion, as an inhabitant of the town, putting aside your medical knowledge, that these houses are public nuisances?—If they are allowed to be as I have seen them, they are a most unsuitable description of houses for females to be in.

3244. *Chairman.*] Are you conversant, more or less, with the lodging-houses at Paisley and other large towns?—We have very little in the shape of public lodging-houses; they are almost entirely private.

3245. Are those lodging-houses under any public inspection?—They are subject to the inspection of the police.

3246. Although they are entirely private houses, where nobody is compelled to take the lodgings unless they are so minded?—No, I think not.

3247. These private lodging-houses are still under the inspection of the police, or the public authorities?—Some houses are occasionally favoured by the police, but I think not as a general rule.

3248. Mr. *Kirk.*] Just in the same manner as the public-houses are, I suppose?—Yes.

3249. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it your opinion that it would be better for the interests of the workmen employed in these bleaching-works that these asylums should be done away with; is that your view?—No; I would not recommend them to be done away with; I think it would be better if they were continued under proper regulations.

3250. A medical

3250. A medical man appointed to inspect them?—I think if a medical man were appointed to visit the factories, under the Bill, that he should have power to point out anything connected with the machinery that he considered injurious to the health of the workers, and if he saw anything in these women's houses inconsistent with the health of the inmates, he should be empowered to recommend a remedy.

3251. You think that the medical man should not only have charge of the factory, but also of these asylums provided for the workers?—To see that they are in some measure commensurate with the continued health of the workers.

3252. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you think it would not be consistent with the health of women, from 18 to 25 years of age, that they should take their own lodgings?—Some of them are so helpless that it would be better for them if they had some one to look after them.

3253. Mr. *Turner.*] You say first of all that there is a great evil in workpeople having to pursue their occupation in an erect position?—Yes.

3254. Can you suggest any plan in which the work at such establishments could be carried on by these workers in any other way than in an erect position?—No; I believe it would be impossible.

3255. Then there is no remedy for that?—No.

3256. Can you tell me how goods of different degrees of fineness could be finished otherwise than by degrees of heat, varying as you say from 90 degrees to 130 degrees; could they be finished in a cooler atmosphere?—No, I believe not.

3257. Then there is no remedy for that evil?—

3258. Can you tell me how many persons could avoid change from one temperature to another when they are working in an atmosphere of this kind; and when they have to come out from it and go into the natural atmosphere to go to their own homes, whether it be in winter or in summer, must they not of necessity encounter such a change?—It is a necessity.

3259. Then that is the third necessity which cannot be remedied?—Yes.

3260. And you say that these workpeople work certain hours, according, I suppose, to the press of business that there was going on at the works?—Yes.

3261. Can you suggest any way in which the masters can avoid executing the work that comes into their hands to be done; must they not vary their hours according to pressing necessities of their business?—There is one practice that I have seen——

3262. Will you answer my question; I do not want an argument; how do you propose to remedy it; give me a direct answer first, and then explain your answer as you think fit?—Then, as I understand it, the question is, how they can avoid the necessity for these extra hours. An order is presented to a bleaching master from a merchant; he says, "I must have a certain quantity of goods finished by a certain time; can you do it?" If the bleaching master is in such a position as some I know, he cannot do it without injuring the works, but he knows of some persons less scrupulous who will do it, if he does not, and he generally adopts it; but I have seen this remedy adopted, to accept the order, and knowing of some factory not so fully employed, they have divided the order, and so both works are kept employed. That is a remedy that might be employed to a very great extent. Then, if the merchant consents, they may allow him a longer time to do it in, and the effect of restricting the hours would be that the supply would be more regular both to the master and the workmen.

3263. In fact, if you were the master of a bleaching-work, you would manage it very much better than the masters who were brought up to the business?—I do not pretend to manage the business at all, but I am endeavouring, in the best way I can, to answer your inquiry as to how this could be avoided; I say that I have seen it avoided by dividing the work, and I believe that the merchants would concede time, and that they would meet the emergency; I believe that the business could be so conducted. I do not consider that the present system is any gratification to the bleaching masters themselves; I believe that both masters and workers would feel equally pleased if they could get rid of this irregular system.

3264. Do you not think it would be agreeable to the merchant to send his goods, if he was able, in the same manner?—I think arbitrary orders would be less given.

3265. Why are arbitrary orders given by merchants?—In consequence of wishing to make a particular shipment; but they would give the order, perhaps, a little sooner.

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3266. Before they received it?—I believe they could accommodate themselves to the circumstances.

3267. Can a merchant command his orders?—He can command the conveyance of his orders.

3268. Can he command a regular supply of orders, by means of which he is able to send cloth to bleachers to be bleached?—When he has an order to give——

3269. Answer my question; can a merchant command his orders?—No; a merchant must receive his order as he gets it, but he may divide the work between one or more bleaching-fields.

3270. If a particular finish is wanted, and he knows that at particular works it can be accomplished, and not at another, will he send one part to be finished in one way, and one part in another?—That I believe is sometimes done; but there are more works of the same kind in the same neighbourhood where they work at the same description of goods, and in that way there is a facility in dividing the order.

3271. You say that numbers of these young women came from the Highlands very plump and healthy, and that they deteriorated very rapidly when they came down to the bleaching-works?—Yes, I have observed that.

3272. Do you think that by any arrangement you could preserve young women in that plump and healthy condition at any kind of close work?—I believe not; but they would not break down so rapidly under a shortened period.

3273. Then there is nothing very peculiar in this occupation; suppose the same girls came into a cotton mill, you would not expect them to look so rosy and healthy?—No; but they would not break down so rapidly.

3274. Why?—Because they are not exposed to the same excessive temperature.

3275. You attribute it all to temperature, then, not to long hours?—I attribute it to the long hours and the temperature together.

3276. You say that there is a very friendly feeling prevailing amongst the workmen and the masters by the reduction of these hours?—Yes, and I am very happy to observe it.

3277. Do you think that that friendly feeling will be promoted by this legislative interference between the men and the masters?—So far as I have been able to observe the feeling of the factory people generally, it has had a very happy effect. I have heard many employers express the gratification they have had in seeing these disputes settled, and seeing their workpeople in a comfortable state, and I believe it has been altogether productive of a kindly feeling between masters and workmen.

3278. But you say that there is already a friendly feeling between the operatives and the master bleachers in your neighbourhood?—Yes, I believe so.

3279. Can you not trust to the continuance of that friendly feeling without compulsory interference?—There is danger of individuals of a less scrupulous character breaking through these arrangements.

3280. And because there are one or two bad subjects, you would compel all the rest that are friendly and kind to regulate their feelings according to legislative interference?—I believe that those individuals who are kindly disposed would rejoice were these arrangements settled by a Parliamentary enactment which would prevent future disputes.

3281. Mr. *Davison.*] Did I understand you to say that you were the medical inspector of factories at Paisley?—For some time I was.

3282. Are you so now?—I am not at present.

3283. Who succeeded you?—A Mr. Cochrane.

3284. Did you like the business?—I found it very pleasant.

3285. Was it because it was pleasant that you left?—No, it was more in consequence of some alterations that were made.

3286. Then it was not that because it was pleasant, but from some other reason?—It was from some other reason.

3287. Would you like it again?—I am not particularly desirous of it now this gentleman is in possession of it; and I am happy to see him enjoying it.

3288. You would not like to resume those duties?—I should be nothing loth; my duties were altogether of a humane kind, and I enjoyed the esteem of the workers and the masters.

3289. Were

3289. Were you not paid for it?—I was paid for it.

3290. How long is it since this gentleman supplanted or succeeded you?—He has been in it for several years now; five or six years I think.

3291. You have no knowledge of the arrangements of the business of a merchant yourself?—No, I have had little to do with mercantile affairs.

3292. And you have very little knowledge of the arrangements of these bleaching works?—Not as to their particular construction.

3293. But even as to the admission of air, you do not seem to know anything about that. You do not seem to have any knowledge of the principles upon which these rooms are ventilated?—It is some years since I attended them.

3294. But you knew nothing about it then, and you know nothing about it now?—No.

3295. And yet you are giving evidence upon it?—So far as I can.

3296. You are giving evidence upon a point which you admit you know nothing of?—Not as to that particular point; but I know much independent of that.

3297. *Chairman.*] You have given your evidence as a medical man?—Yes, more particularly.

3298. As to the effect which you have seen produced upon those under your care?—Yes.

3299. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is it not remarkable that you have not been able to produce any statistics upon the subject. You were ten years the medical attendant of these persons in this particular bleach field, and yet you have no statistics whatever, real or comparative?—It was not necessary; my engagement was just to come and visit the workers, and prescribe for them when they were in sickness; and while I have been in the factories I have observed the particular degree of heat, I have observed the standing position, I have witnessed their hours of work, and I have seen them exposed to the sudden transitions from heat to cold, and from cold to heat, and I have given my opinion upon those points; and I think, so far as it is based upon those points, it is correct.

3300. But what we want here is facts, and you seem to be exceedingly scarce of those. You have not been able to give us a positive statement of facts of the comparative amount of different classes of diseases, or a comparative statement of the amount of the same disease in the factory and in the bleach work?—No; but I have no hesitation in giving an opinion, founded on long observation, that all these complaints preponderate in the bleaching works, particularly those engaged in the stoves, where the protection of law is mostly required.

3301. Mr. *Davison.*] But you have admitted to me already that these complaints are identical, although not to the same extent, in the factories?—Oh, yes; I admit that.

3302. *Chairman.*] But we understand you to say they appear in an aggravated form?—With greater frequency, and perhaps in an aggravated form.

3303. Mr. *Kirk.*] But you have not had that experience since the hours were reduced to 11 hours?—I believe there is an amelioration in all those respects in consequence of that.

3304. Then, in fact, the evidence you are now giving to the Committee is evidence of what occurred five or six years ago?—I have some knowledge of it still, because, although I am not in charge of those particular works, I am still treating patients from those different works, so that I have attention called to those facts still.

3305. In your private practice?—Yes.

3306. What was the reason of your ceasing to attend these bleaching works?—I was obliged either to sacrifice that or my private practice, and I resigned in favour of another gentleman.

3307. Mr. *Davison.*] But you would not have any objection to go back?—I would have no objection, from the character of the employment, to go back; but it might not be convenient.

3308. Suppose I offered it to you to-morrow, would you take it?—Well, I have other duties to perform.

3309. Then you would not take it?—I do not know that I would not take it. I wish to be understood, that so far as the thing in itself is agreeable, I would have no objection upon that score.

3310. *Chairman.*] I understand you, that at the present moment there is a very good feeling existing between the employers and the employed engaged in the bleaching establishments?—Yes, I believe the feeling is very general.

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3311. And I think I understand you also to say, that among the masters there is a general feeling in favour of some legislative interference?—A general feeling in favour of it.

3312. In your opinion, does the good feeling now existing between the different classes, arise in some degree from a knowledge on the part of the working people that they and their employers are agreed upon the necessity of some legislative interference?—Yes, I believe so; I have seen the working classes at Paisley in such an exasperated state, that they have actually attempted to murder their employers. I have seen men flogged in the street of Paisley for attempting to shoot their employers, but I believe no such feeling now exists, and I think that all parties would regard it as a common benefit if a measure to meet their views in some manner were enacted.

3313. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] Have you had a good deal of experience amongst other works at Paisley as well as your own works?—Yes, generally.

3314. I understand you to say, that varicose veins is a common complaint amongst the workers at Paisley?—It is a complaint that is common amongst shopkeepers and workers in factories; it exists in mills also where they are much on their feet.

3315. Are you aware that the people in the spinning mills are upon their feet for a good many hours?—Yes, they are.

3316. Do you find the varicose veins more common amongst the bleachers?—Yes, I do.

3317. And you attribute that to the excessive heat?—To the excessive heat.

The Reverend *John Lockure,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. *J. Lockure.*

3318. *Chairman.*] WILL you tell the Committee what is your profession, and where you reside?—I am Pastor of a congregational church in Paisley.

3319. How many years have you been so?—Seven.

3320. Does any portion of your congregation consist of persons employed in bleaching works in or about Paisley?—Not now, but about four years ago I had a few.

3321. Can you tell the Committee at all what number?—I had only three or four.

3322. Did you become acquainted with their circumstances or their condition?—I did.

3323. Did anything strike you with respect either to their physical or moral condition?—There was nothing particular about their physical condition, and as to their moral, those of them connected with my church were about upon an average with those from other works.

3324. Was your attention, during that period, directed at all to the condition under which the bleaching works were carried on?—I was called on to take an active part in the movement of 1853.

3325. You say you were called on?—Yes, by the bleachers.

3326. Did that induce you to examine into the condition of persons employed in bleaching works?—It made me make very extensive inquiries into the subject; but of the nature of those inquiries I am not prepared to speak at this time, because I was called away suddenly, to come here on Saturday evening, and being from home at the time, I was unable to lay my hands upon the notes which I made at the time; but the extent of my information may be seen by the report which I happened to be employed by the bleachers to draw up when they presented a petition to their masters.

3327. Do you mean the memorial to the bleaching and scouring masters of the west of Scotland, dated May 1853?—That is it.

3328. I need scarcely ask you whether that states correctly the result of the impressions produced upon your own mind by the inquiries which you had made previously to that period?—I was thoroughly satisfied with regard to everything that appears there at that time.

3329. Had any circumstances occurred to your own knowledge subsequently to 1853 which would induce you to alter any opinion you then gave utterance to?—Subsequently to that a kind of agreement was made between the masters and men, which I thought was final.

3330. Was

3330. Was your impression correct in that respect?—I am led to understand not, from the fact of the present application to Parliament. Rev. *J. Lockure.*

3331. What was the nature of the arrangement that you had hoped was final?—Sixty-six hours a week, if my recollection is right. 29 June 1857.

Mr. *James Leck*, called in; and Examined.

3332. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—A bleacher and singer in Glasgow. I have a bleaching work about four miles out of Glasgow, on the banks of the Clyde. Mr. *J. Leck.*

3333. How many persons do you employ?—They vary from 90 to 110, according as we are busy or slack.

3334. Is that in all your works?—No; that refers to the bleaching field.

3335. Of those how many are women, young persons, and children, the three classes to whom legislation is proposed to be applied?—I think I have 10 or 12 children employed.

3336. How many women?—About 70, I think. We have not many men; out of 110 we have not more than about 15 men.

3337. Will you tell the Committee what is the nature of the work that the 70 women have to perform?—From 30 to 40 are engaged in the stoves. I have two stoves.

3338. Let us take those first then; with respect to the temperature of the stoves, what may that be?—It varies from 90° to 120°, according to the description of goods.

3339. As to the nature of the employment, what is it that these women do in those stoves?—They are employed in putting the cloth on the stenter, running it along stoves 41 yards long, to dry.

3340. Is that an occupation which permits them to sit down and rest much during the time they are employed?—No, very little.

3341. They are chiefly in a standing position then?—Chiefly standing.

3342. For how long a time may the women be engaged in this business?—Our usual hours in summer are from six o'clock in the morning till seven o'clock at night, with three quarters of an hour for breakfast and three quarters of an hour for dinner; and on Saturdays we quit at three o'clock, with half an hour for breakfast only.

3343. Beginning at six o'clock?—Beginning at six.

3344. Are those the hours in summer, or are they through the year?—They apply of course to all through the year; but in winter for three or four months we are very busy, and we have no regular hours; then we work according to the order we get.

3345. If I understand you right, the shortest time you work the stoves is what you name?—Yes, all beyond that is extra work.

3346. Will you tell the Committee what are the irregular hours during these three or four months when you are so busy in winter?—In winter we work generally four nights in a week until 11 o'clock at night.

3347. Beginning at six o'clock?—Beginning at six; sometimes we quit at 10, but generally we work until 11 o'clock.

3348. Are the same persons employed throughout the week?—Yes; we have no relays or extra hands.

3349. Do the persons so engaged complain as to their health being affected by these hours of work?—No; I do not think it.

3350. Have you noticed yourself, in your own experience?—They look fagged during those long hours. I have seen repeated cases of fainting away, which I have never seen during the short hours. I have had two or three cases of fainting when we were working the long hours.

3351. Do persons "knock up," as it is called, in consequence of these long hours?—A good many of them "knock under," or are absent occasionally at these pushes. They do not appear next morning unless we insist on their coming; a few are absent till breakfast time, and then they come in.

3352. Has it ever occurred to you that some arrangement might be made to reduce these long hours?—Yes, the short time movement amongst bleachers and employers, and workers, is, I think, progressing. There is a kind of feeling amongst us to work short hours; I have spoken to some very large employers;

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I told one of them that I had a notice to attend here, and I asked his opinion, and he said, "It is a very good thing, and I wish we had it;" and he is about the largest employer in Scotland. I have spoken to some others, and very few of them I think are opposed to it.

3353. I should like to ask you your own opinion; what is your feeling upon the subject?—I should be quite well pleased if there was a legislative enactment for 10 hours a day, so far as regards myself.

3354. Can you tell us what the system of ventilation is in the stoves to which you have referred?—They are only ventilated at the ends, from the doors at one end, and from the opening windows at the other.

3355. And are those windows high up in the apartment?—No; they open inwards.

3356. Is the ventilation produced by that means sufficient, in your opinion?—It is sufficient, of course; we have two flats, and there is one opening in the first flat to allow the heat to ascend into the second flat; but we have no ventilation except the extreme ends of the stoves.

3357. How does that act upon the centre of the apartment; is the heat greater there than it is at the ends?—I do not think it is; I never observed it; it is greater where the fire is; they are fired from each end, and, of course, the fire is immediately over the extreme ends; but the door balances that at one end, and the opening window at the other.

3358. Is that the system pursued in most of the stoves in your neighbourhood?—I believe so.

3359. Are those women natives of the place, or are they partly from the Highlands and from Ireland?—They are mostly natives of the place; it is a mining district where I am, and I get the daughters of the colliers round the place.

3360. You have told us that so far as you know, the majority of the masters are in favour of legislative interference?—Those that I know and that I have spoken to.

3361. Do you think it would have any prejudicial effect upon the wages of the workpeople?—No, I do not think that.

3362. With respect to your own business, do you see any great difficulty in accommodating your business to it?—No, I see none.

3363. Mr. *Massey.*] You seem to work regularly four days in the week. During these pushes, as they are called, would it not be possible for you to introduce a number of additional hands?—By extending the works we could do that.

3364. Not without extending your works?—No.

3365. Then it would be utterly impossible for you to meet your orders without working these long hours?—Quite impossible.

3366. Mr. *Turner.*] I fancy you would scarcely be able to do so much work, would you, which you seem to think would be the proper time, as you do now?—No, but we have idle time occasionally. We are of opinion that the work would come to us more regularly from the manufacturers or the merchants if they had a limited time to finish their goods.

3367. I understand you to say that you always had from six o'clock in the morning till seven o'clock in the evening, with an interval of an hour and a half per day for meals?—Yes.

3368. So that would be 13 working hours, less one hour and a half,—11½ working hours?—Yes.

3369. And at certain seasons in winter, for three or four months, you work very long hours, until eleven o'clock at night?—Yes.

3370. Then, if you had ten hours as the working hours upon the whole year through, would you be able at your works to do the same quantity of work?—No.

3371. Would you pay the same wages to the workpeople for ten hours as you now do for the hours you work?—I think so.

3372. Would you?—Yes, I would.

3373. You would be willing to pay them?—Yes.

3374. Then, of course, as you would be able to pay the workpeople for working 10 hours as you do now for working 11½ hours, you would be able to charge the same price to the persons that supplied you with work?—Very likely we should meditate an advance.

3375. Then that would be the advance of the wages you would pay extra.

You

You would pay the same wages for less work. Of course it would cost you very much more per piece in the item of wages?—Yes, it would cost a little more.

3376. For that particular, then, you would consider yourself entitled to charge an additional sum to the manufacturers who supplied you with work?—If we could get it. We find that we can get an occasional advance now.

3377. The plant of your work, the capital employed in your work, must be very considerable?—Yes, it is considerable.

3378. Will you allow me to ask you whether, suppose you were able at your present hours to do 100,000 pieces of cloth, and under the regulations you would not be able to do more than 80,000 pieces, you would not have to charge upon the 80,000 the whole that you would have charged upon the 100,000?—I think we should require to get an advance.

3379. Then the result of this legislation will be a very considerable advance upon the price to the manufacturers?—Not very much upon the cost of the finish; it would probably be from 5 to 10 per cent. a piece, costing 15 *s.* or 20 *s.*

3380. Are you aware whether in any foreign countries there is any such limitation of hours as you propose?—No, I do not think there is any limitation, but I am not particularly aware upon that point.

3381. Are you aware that in some departments of business the British manufacturers have to run a very close competition with continental manufacturers?—I believe it is with weaving, in some particular classes of goods; I finish a great many Swiss goods; there is a very keen competition in weaving, but not in finishing, that I am aware of.

3382. The tendency of this legislation would be to place additional burthens upon the British manufacturers as compared with continental, in the bleaching department?—If there are hours of limitation in one place, and in another place they can work as long as they choose, of course it would be an additional limitation in the one where the enactment applied.

3383. Then it amounts to a tax upon British produce, does it not?—So far as regards that.

3384. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you finish anything in the linen way?—No.

3385. Do you finish cambric handkerchiefs?—No.

3386. You do nothing in the linen way?—No.

3387. Then your evidence applies solely to cotton bleaching?—Solely to cotton.

3388. *Chairman.*] I think you stated that the possible rise in price would be from 5 to 10 per cent.?—Yes, I think it might be that, but we have got that in the last year or two, and no great revolution at all has taken place; we got it easily and without any effort; the bleachers in Glasgow have generally got it until this last year or two upon some descriptions of goods.

3389. Mr. *Wise.*] If the work were more equally distributed throughout the year, do you think you would in reality bleach and dye less than you do now?—I do not think it; not much at any rate in the summer season.

3390. What are the circumstances that lead to your being more busy at one time than at another?—The orders seem to be going out principally by ships in the winter season; I do not know for what reason particularly, but we generally find that the bleachers have more to do than they can undertake in the winter, and in the summer sometimes they do not know what to do; they do not work then more than eight or nine hours, or probably ten, and we do not push the work, but in the winter time there is frequently a great push.

3391. I think you admit that the amount of bleaching must exceed the amount of orders received?—Yes.

3392. Would it be possible to secure regularity of orders?—I could not say that.

3393. Is there any necessity for these long hours of work in the character of the trade?—No; I do it because others do it, and there is the way we go on. The more respectable of them, I dare say, would agree to a short-time movement; but there is one evil that I would notice; these small bleachers take premises and pay 200 *l.* or 300 *l.* a year; they work night and day, and suppose they are cheating the landlord by getting double tides out for one rent.

3394. Looking at the question, first as a manufacturer, and secondly as a citizen, do you think the present system injurious to the health of the persons who are employed in the bleaching-works?—I think it is.

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3395. Do you think that without some sort of legislation the poorer classes of this country are able to protect themselves?—I do not.

3396. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee what the increased cost of bleaching a piece of goods would be, assuming the rise to be 10 per cent.?—A piece of goods that would cost 10 *d.* finishing just now, would probably be 11 *d.*; and if we could not get that, we must get it in some other way.

3397. That would be an extra penny?—Yes; I should be very glad in my own business to have that extra penny; but if they would not give it, I would not throw up the house, but I would certainly tell them that Government had interfered for short hours, and I think you ought to give me the penny.

3398. If it turns out that the rise is only five per cent., the increased cost of bleaching a piece of goods would only be a halfpenny?—Yes, just about a halfpenny.

3399. Mr. *Massey.*] Would you be content to give that halfpenny to the men employed under you to cover the less amount of work that you would be able to furnish?—I intend it for myself.

3400. Then you would not increase the wages of your workpeople?—No, I do not expect that; but we are so much under their control, that they meet occasionally and say we want such and such wages; and if the hands are wanted, we give them an advance without more ado—a shilling or so.

3401. Do not you think it would be fair if you were in the habit of paying your workers a shilling a week extra for a long time, and you had all at once to reduce your work to short time, that you should give them some recompence for it?—No, I do not think that.

3402. I understand you to say that if there was no legislation on the subject, and you reduced the short hours, you would still continue to give those employed under you the same amount of wages that they now get for long hours?—I think so; I never contemplated making any alteration; the difference would only be an hour a day, and for long hours they are paid every minute extra beyond the usual time.

3403 Would you give the men employed under you the same wages for working 10 hours as you have been in the habit of paying for 17 hours?—They do not work 17 hours just now, they work 11½ I think, from six in the morning till seven in the evening; that is the regular day, and they are paid extra for every hour beyond that.

3404. Mr. *Kirk.*] The evidence you gave before was, that it was 66 hours a week?—Yes, I think that is it.

3405. Those are the working hours?—Yes, and all beyond that they are paid extra for.

3406. Then when you spoke of long hours, you meant 66 hours?—No, that is not long hours, those are regular hours; the long hours is when we work till 10 or 11 o'clock, in the winter season.

3407. Sixty-six hours are your ordinary working hours?—Yes.

3408. And when you speak of short hours, you mean 60 hours?—I mean the present contemplated Bill.

3409. Do you mean 60 hours?—Yes.

3410. *Chairman.*] What the Committee are to understand is, that you would make no difference between 66 hours and 60, but all the overtime you pay for?—Yes.

3411. You would cease to pay that, of course?—Yes, if they were not working; this Bill would not allow me to work, and of course it would cease.

3412. But between 60 and 66 hours?—I would make no reduction.

3413. Mr. *Kirk.*] Therefore those who were inclined to work overtime would be unable to do so, and in consequence of this Bill would lose the difference?—Of course; they could not get the work done, and they would lose it.

3414. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] How much wages do you pay the women?—The stove girls have eight shillings per week.

3415. For the 13 hours?—Yes.

3416. How much do you pay them an hour overtime?—They are paid just at that rate.

3417. Then it would make a difference of about 18 pence a week the taking away the overtime?—Yes.

3418. So

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3418. So that your women who are now earning 9 *s.* 6 *d.* per week would be reduced to 8 *s.* ?—Yes.

3419. You have a certain amount of slackness, I suppose?—Yes, in the summer season.

3420. Have you any notion how much their wages would be reduced by that?—We are very fortunate; we have very little idle time; one week or two we have been rather slack, and rather than lose my workers I have said, "It does not matter whether you work an hour a week or not, your wages shall never be below 5 *s.*"

3421. You give them 5 *s.* to support themselves, although you did not employ them?—Yes.

3422. How many weeks would it be like that?—I said that about three weeks ago when business looked very bad, but it got better immediately; I do not think it occurred more than twice this year, but rather than lose them I did so, as there were plenty ready to pick them up, and it had the desired effect.

Mr. *James Thompson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Thompson.*

3423. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation, and where do you reside?—At Burnbank; I am the Manager of bleaching-works there.

3424. Is that near Paisley?—Yes.

3425. How long have you been in that capacity?—I have only been about six months in that capacity, but I was formerly engaged with Messrs. Wm. Wallace & Son, which is mentioned in the Report.

3426. When did you leave Messrs. Wallace's establishment?—On the 9th of April last.

3427. Therefore there has been no break in your experience as a manager of bleaching-works?—I cannot say so much on the business I have entered upon, because it is a very different business; but the one I was formerly engaged upon I can speak to.

3428. What is the nature of your present business?—Bleaching embroidered work.

3429. Is that cotton?—Muslin collars, sleeves, and babies' robes.

3430. But your experience at Burnbank continued up to the 9th of April?—Yes.

3431. How many persons would there be employed at Messrs. Wallace's establishment?—During the summers nearly 100; in the winter it was less.

3432. What class of goods were bleached there?—Mostly woollen goods.

3433. Of those hundred persons how many might be women, and how many children and young persons?—Between 30 and 40 women, and about three or four young persons from 10 to 15 years of age.

3434. Will you tell the Committee what the hours of labour ordinarily were for the women and young persons in that establishment?—The ordinary labour was from six in the morning till seven at night, or 66 hours per week.

3435. Was that ever exceeded in the course of the year?—Yes, during the summer months.

3436. What would be the hours then?—On Monday morning we sometimes rose at one o'clock, and occasionally we worked till 12 on Monday evening; but the general hours of working when we were busy were from six in the morning till 12 at night, for three days at least in the week.

3437. Would those be consecutive or alternate days?—Alternate days, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

3438. How many hours' work per week would that give the women or young persons so employed?—About 90 hours; from 80 to 90 hours per week.

3439. What was the impression produced upon your mind by the appearance of the persons who were working these long hours?—Next morning they appeared very tired and haggard-looking; indeed they were not qualified for their work next day. I found in my experience that we lost during the day from 10 to 30 pieces by their working overtime.

3440. Do you mean that they were not bleached, or bleached so badly?—No, we could not get them put forward; we lost that by working irregular hours; we got our regular amount out, but with long hours we generally lost something by it.

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3441. Has your attention been called to the subject-matter of the investigation of this Committee, and the proposed legislative interference?—Yes.

3442. What is your opinion upon that subject?—My opinion is that our trade could be carried on at 60 hours per week, by the masters extending their premises a little more.

3443. You are yourself I think connected with some employers?—Yes; but we bleach only our own goods.

3444. But speaking in the interests of master bleachers, you do not see any practical difficulty in the way of conducting their business under a system of regulated labour?—No, none.

3445. And the Committee understand you to be in favour of legislative interference to shorten the hours of persons engaged in the bleaching business?—Yes.

3446. Mr. *Kirk.*] I think you state that your present occupation is that of bleaching collars?—Yes, just now, and sleeves and children's robes.

3447. They are very light things?—Yes; but my former employment was in the woollen line, washing and finishing woollens, and occasionally bleaching plain muslins, before the 9th of April last year.

3448. Were the woollen works subject to the same hours as the cotton?—Yes, because we finished both woollen and cotton at the same time.

3449. Were you liable in the woollen trade to the same pushes that you were in the cotton trade?—Yes.

3450. Did you say you were bleaching woollen?—No; washing and scouring woollens, but bleaching plain muslin.

3451. And you were at that time liable to the same description of pushes, as you term them?—Yes.

3452. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are the woollen and cotton trade so inseparably connected in the west of Scotland that it would be impossible to legislate for one without the other?—As for the dyeing, I cannot say anything about it; the cotton and woollen would be quite inseparable, because one bleach-field, during the winter, finishes cotton goods, and during the summer finishes woollen goods.

3453. But there are a great many union goods, are there not, a mixture of woollen and cotton?—Yes, those are what I mean; we generally call them woollen goods.

3454. Do you bleach and dye the goods altogether in woollen?—We do not dye; the dyeing is separable generally from the bleaching.

3455. I am speaking of the works in the west of Scotland?—The bleaching and dyeing is generally separate, and not connected with the same masters.

3456. But goods made altogether of wool are both bleached and dyed in the west of Scotland, are they not?—No; not under the same employers.

3457. But they are done there?—They are done in the west of Scotland.

3458. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it your opinion that those persons who are engaged in the woollen trade should be put under the same restrictions as those engaged in the cotton trade?—Yes.

3459. Mr. *Baxter.*] You consider it would be impossible to draw a line of distinction between them?—Yes, quite impossible.

3460. Are the masters generally favourable in the west of Scotland, do you think, to this legislative interference?—As far as I heard, they were.

3461. Have they ever sent up a deputation to London against Mr. Tremenheere's Bills?—I understand they did at one period.

3462. When was that?—In 1843.

3463. But have they done so of late years?—I am not sure about that.

3464. Is it not a fact that you would know from your acquaintance with the movement altogether?—I am acquainted with the movement so far as it is going on; but I have not taken any active part in it, any more than giving my evidence.

3465. Are you acquainted with Dr. Boase?—No.

3466. Are you aware that there the course is very different?—I cannot say that.

3467. Mr. *Davison.*] When you say you bleach your own goods, do I understand you to say that you purchase them yourself?—We are makers of them; we have only commenced this year to be so.

3468. Then you are not subject to these pushes that we have heard of?—No, not to the same amount; we have had occasion to work a little overtime on

account

account of being far away from any town, and being unable to get hands; but we are not subject to the same pushes as other places are.

3469. Mr. *Kirk.*] That is mainly because you are your own employers?—Yes.

3470. Mr. *Cobbett.*] In answer to a question put to you, you stated that in 1843 the masters in the west of Scotland did send up a deputation against legislation on this matter?—As far as I recollect.

3471. But at the present time you think that those same masters in the west of Scotland are in favour of legislation?—Yes, in general they are.

3472. Have they not entered into agreements amongst them to limit the hours of labour from time to time?—Yes.

3473. And those agreements have been violated, first by one and then by another, until all have gone back to the old hours; is not that so?—Yes.

3474. Would it not, therefore, appear that there ought to be factory legislation?—Yes.

3475. In fact, I understand you to say that the masters generally of the west of Scotland are in favour of legislation upon this point, and that they do now and then voluntarily enter into agreements among themselves to do that which would be made compulsory upon them?—Yes.

3476. I believe you are the manager of the works of your uncle, are you not?—I was formerly, but I am now engaged with Messrs. S. R. & T. Brown; we now bleach our own goods.

3477. But you know a good deal about it?—Yes.

3478. What neighbourhood are you living in now?—The neighbourhood of Paisley.

3479. Do you know anything of the houses attached to these bleaching works, called the women's houses?—Yes.

3480. Do you know anything of Mr. Hamilton's?—No.

3481. Do you know that Mr. Hamilton has a woman's house?—Yes.

3482. Is there any at Pollockshaws?—I do not think it.

3483. Do you know of any other except the one I speak of at Mr. Hamilton's?—Yes.

3484. Whose is that?—Messrs. Adams & Son, of Millbank, and Messrs. Wallace's.

3485. That is where you were?—Yes.

3486. We will speak of that of Messrs. Wallace first; it is a house attached to the bleaching works, is it not?—Yes, it is inside the works.

3487. How many persons does it contain; how many persons live in it; do you remember?—About 30.

3488. They lived there continuously, did not they?—Yes.

3489. Slept there, and had their meals there?—Yes.

3490. Were they all females?—All females.

3491. Of what ages might they be?—From 15 to 60.

3492. Would there be any younger than 15, do you think?—I cannot say about that; I do not think it, because they generally live with their parents then.

3493. We will speak, then, of those 30 that you say live there; did they all sleep in one room?—In one room.

3494. There were beds fitted up there, then, for 30 of these females in one room?—Yes.

3495. How many slept in a bed, do you know?—Sometimes three, sometimes two.

3496. Then they were roused up in the morning, I suppose, whenever they were wanted?—Yes, that was the object of having woman-houses in connexion with the fields.

3497. Do you know how they passed their time on a Sunday?—Very few of them ever attended church; they generally lay in their bed the most of the day, and in the after part they went and took a walk.

3498. Was that from excessive fatigue, and did they complain in fact of their fatigue? Was it that they were too tired, and was that the reason that they lay in bed the greater part of the Sunday?—I believe that was the cause of it; I know that from my own experience.

3499. Did you ever hear any objections in the neighbourhood about these places, on the ground of their being productive of irregularities and immoralities of any kind?—Very much so.

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3500. Was it ever complained of, that the beds were over crowded, too thickly crammed together, and the chests of drawers, or whatever they kept their clothes in, were over-heated on that account and unhealthy?—Yes, very often that was the case.

3501. Did any of them read, or could they read?—In general, very few.

3502. As to what they did read, did you ever hear whether the publications they got were objectionable publications or not?—I never saw them with any thing but songbooks in their hands.

3503. What was the utmost heat that you remember to have noticed in any one of these stoves that you have spoken of?—I have occasionally seen it 140.

3504. Did you ever hear of it as high as 160?—It might have been that when we opened the doors at six o'clock in the morning; but then we generally opened the windows, and brought it down to 130; but I have seen it 140 when they were working in it.

3505. Do you remember this complaint to have been made at all or spoken of, that the nails in the floors became so heated, as to make it necessary for the women who worked there to wear slippers in order to prevent their feet from being blistered?—Yes, I have seen their feet burnt.

3506. By the heat of the nails?—By the heat of the nails; and I have got my own hands burnt.

3507. By what?—By what they call the bearers of the stenters of the stove.

3508. Is the stenter something you hang the goods upon?—Yes, it is where the goods are dried upon.

3509. I want to understand you, whether or not it was that the nails in the floor got so hot that they burnt the feet of the women when they walked upon it?—Yes.

3510. They are obliged to walk up and down the floors continually all the night?—Yes, and the girls have showed me their legs as red as scarlet from the heat of the flues, when they have had occasion to pass up and down by the stenters.

3511. The flues go along the room, I suppose?—Yes; the stenters are above the flues, and the flues are just below the stenters for the sake of drying the goods.

3512. You know that Mr. Hamilton has a room at his house near Paisley?—Yes.

3513. It is about a mile and a half from Paisley, is it not?—Yes.

3514. Did you ever see it?—I never saw it.

3515. Did you ever see the outside of it?—No.

3516. Were you never by Mr. Hamilton's?—I have walked into Paisley, but I never saw it; I have only been three times in Paisley altogether.

3517. Then in point of fact you cannot give any evidence with regard to Mr. Hamilton's woman's house?—No.

3518. Mr. *Davison.*] About this woman's house; it is provided by the proprietor of the works, is it not?—Yes.

3519. Is it quite voluntary on the part of the persons to go into them, or is it compulsory?—It is voluntary; but it is voluntary in this way, that they go there to get the place comparatively free; it is compulsory thus far, that they have no other place to go to.

3520. Do they pay rent for it?—Yes; as far as I am aware a number pay for it; I cannot say for every one; they pay 2 *d.* or 4 *d.* a fortnight.

3521. That is a voluntary payment?—No, the payment is compulsory.

3522. But it is voluntary their going there?—Yes.

3523. They could go into a lodging if they chose?—Yes.

3524. And these women go there?—Yes.

3525. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Do you know where these young persons who live in this woman's house come from generally?—As far as I have seen, they come from Ireland and the Highlands.

3526. They are young persons that come, generally speaking, from the Highlands or from Ireland?—Yes.

3527. Did you ever hear of a woman's house near Paisley in which there was a division made, and one part set aside for the Irish, and the other for the Scotch?—Yes.

3528. Where was that?—At Messrs. Cochrane's.

3529. Is that far from Paisley?—About six miles.

3530. Is it not near Pollockshaws?—At Barr Head.

3531. Do you know how many young persons or women were lodged in that house?—I believe he had between 300 and 400 occasionally.

3532. Did you ever hear of any disturbance between the two different lots, the Irish and the Scotch?—I have occasionally heard of quarrels.

3533. Has it not been the cause of a great deal of complaint?—Yes.

3534. I understand you that these houses are parts of the establishment?—Yes.

3535. They are, in fact, attached to the works?—Yes.

3536. *Chairman*] Are they within the walls of the establishment?—Some establishments are walled in, and they are inside the walls along with our workers' houses, where the place is not walled in; it was just beside the workers' houses, and they are generally accounted as just within the works.

3537. Mr. *Davison.*] When they are within the walls, is there an entrance to them from without?—Yes. In speaking of the bleaching, I should say that the cloth lappers had very irregular hours about two years ago, and they spoke out and got their hours shortened to regular hours; before that there was a great shipment of goods nearly every week; now there are very few short shipments take place with regular hours of working; they used to work all night for two days at a time.

3538. *Chairman.*] You mean that the work in that particular branch has been more equally spread since the hours have been shortened?—Yes.

3539. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Then it has been beneficial, in fact, to those who came to the bleacher, that the hours of labour should be shortened?—Yes.

3540. Has there been any difficulty experienced by the merchant who brings his goods in such cases?—No; because the consequence has been that there has been no short shipments to speak of.

3541. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that from your experience you thought that the lying in bed on Sunday was necessary for the women who were subject to those long hours?—Yes.

3542. Did you mean by that, that you, as manager, had yourself been so kept up that you were obliged to lie in bed all Sunday?—Yes; at least, part of the day; I could not get to church in the fore part of the day; if I did go I slept.

3543. Mr. *Kirk.*] When you speak of long hours, do you mean 66 hours a week?—No, I mean 80 hours.

3544. Then, when you have been giving this testimony, you have been all along meaning 80 hours a week?—When I was giving the testimony of 80 hours, I gave 80 hours.

3545. When you used the term "long hours," what did you mean by it?—I mean long hours, 80 hours per week; but 66 hours I think too long.

3546. Then what do you mean by the term short hours, as applied to lappers?—They work 65 hours, just now.

3547. Supposing that you worked 66 hours, do you think the persons would require to lie in bed all day on Sunday in order to recover their strength?—No.

3548. Then you think 66 hours would not be so injurious to them if they left off on Saturday at three, as to oblige them to remain in bed on Sunday?—No.

3549. You think if they worked 66 hours a week, and left off at three on Saturday, they would not be injured by it?—Not so much.

3550. But you think they would be injured?—I believe that working these hours is injurious to the health, standing in such a heat as they generally do.

3551. Is there a very great heat in the lapping-rooms?—Not in the lapping-rooms. I merely stated that, in order to show that where work is regular, things can go on better.

3552. What I wanted to know was this, whether it was in consequence of a movement on the part of the workpeople, or in consequence of legislation, that the change took place in the lapping-rooms?—On account of the people themselves.

3553. The people themselves were able to effect a change, then?—Yes.

 3554. And

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3554. And they did it without legislation?—Yes.

3555. But you think the others would not be able to effect it without legislation?—I do not think it, because it has been tried and failed, and the masters see that themselves.

Mr. *Daniel Drimminie*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *D. Drimminie.*

3556. Mr. *Baxter.*] WHAT trade are you engaged in?—In the Irish bleaching; I am managing partner in the firm of Daniel Drimminie & Co.

3557. Conducting large bleaching works in the neighbourhood of Dundee?—Yes, five miles from Dundee.

3558. It is what is commonly and usually called an out-door bleaching field, I believe?—Yes.

3559. That is, the major part of your work is done in the open air?—Partly out and partly in, the in-door depending on the out-door.

3560. You are aware that there are no such establishments in Lancashire or Cheshire connected with the cotton trade in general?—Not that I am aware of.

3561. There are no works which might be properly called bleaching fields?—Not that I know of.

3562. A good deal of evidence has been given before this Committee to show that the operatives in Lancashire, Cheshire, and the west of Scotland, and other parts of the country, have an unhealthy look in consequence of the long hours, the great overtime, and the excessive heat to which they are subjected; are the operatives whom you and your neighbours employ unhealthy?—Not at all; it is a healthy employment.

3563. Are they about the most healthy class of your population?—I consider they are.

3564. Are they more healthy, and do they live longer than those engaged in agricultural labour?—I should say they are; farm servants are generally short-lived.

3565. Will you state whether it is your opinion that your out-door bleaching is more analogous, and bears more resemblance to agricultural labour than to employment in linen or cotton factories?—Yes, it is more in the open air; the females are more employed in the open air, in laying down the yarns and taking them off the grass.

3566. What is the average of your working hours at present?—At present, 10 hours, and that was made by agreement with the people; some two years ago they came to me, asking the hours to be reduced one hour per day, which I readily agreed to, on condition that the other bleachers in the neighbourhood would agree to it; we worked from six in the morning till six in the evening, allowing three quarters of an hour to breakfast and an hour to dinner for five days in the week, and one Saturday we stopped at five, and the next Saturday at two; and on the Saturday we stopped at two we gave half an hour to breakfast.

3567. What number of persons do you employ?—At present I employ 153 persons altogether.

3567*. Have you any females and boys employed in the stoves?—None.

3568. And do you employ females and boys after six in the evening?—Occasionally we do.

3569. For how long?—Sometimes for an hour or two; perhaps three hours; but very rarely three hours of an evening; we do not employ young boys after six o'clock at night; that is to say, boys under 14.

3570. Have you any statement showing, upon an average for last year, what extra time all the persons in your employment have worked?—I have a statement here, showing the extra time worked by spreaders, who are females of from 16 to 18 or 20 years of age, and by bundle women of the same age, and by boys also.

3571. Will you state to the Committee generally the result of the number of hours for the whole year?—I made this statement at the beginning of last April, on looking over the matter, and I found that from April down to 18th March 1856 and 1857, the spreaders worked 13 hours extra that year.

3572. In the course of the year?—In the course of the whole year the bundling people worked 41 hours and one third, and the boys had no extra time during that year.

3573. Does that statement include all the workers in your establishment?—All the females and boys.

3574. You sometimes worked after six o'clock; was that in consequence of the water being dirtied, caused by the floods in the river?—It occurred in consequence of rain, and having to wash out the goods more than in dry weather.

3575. Then you are dependent upon the weather?—Yes, we are, upon the drying department.

3576. Are your yarns dried in the open air, or in stoves?—They are dried partly in the open air and partly in stoves; in weather such as this we dry them out altogether; in other weather we hang them outside until they are properly finished, and then dry them off in the stoves.

3577. Does dull weather interfere with you; can you dry as well as by your out-door occupation?—Yes; there is more work then, in consequence of having to wash more, and that interferes with the labour of the bundling women, but from four to five days in the week they dry one-half in the yard, and the bundling women have to dry it up afterwards, so that they are put out during that time.

3578. And they make it up by two or three hours at night?—Yes, occasionally for a night or two, but only when compelled to do so; we do not like to do so.

3579. It has been proposed in some Bills that the hours should be limited from six in the morning till six in the evening; would it be more convenient to you oftentimes to begin at a later hour than six in the morning?—Some persons begin later; we have always began at six.

3580. Are you aware that any of your neighbours engaged in the same employment begin at half-past six?—Yes, and seven.

3581. Any later?—None later, that I know of.

3582. You have heard the report of a commissioner, I suppose, and the evidence upon which it was founded?—Yes.

3583. He proposed that there should be a clause allowing extra time in certain cases; do you think that clause would be of benefit to you?—I do think it is practicable, because I think that my foreman, or manager, and the inspector would not agree upon what was necessary to work extra time for; there would be a squabble between them.

3584. You think it would be cheaper for you to pay the fine than to have an investigation into any case that might be disputed between them?—If I was put under an Act, I should try to keep within the law, if possible.

3585. But suppose the inspector and your manager were to differ with regard to the necessity of two or three hours longer work upon a certain occasion, would it not be cheaper for you to pay the fine than have an investigation, calling your workmen away from their employment to give evidence with regard to a case of that sort?—Yes, in that light I think it would.

3586. Is there any part of your work where you could not conform to the conditions of a Bill with respect to regular meal hours?—There is one part of the work, the first part in bleaching the yarns; we have six boys and two men engaged at it, and they commence their work every two hours out of every hour and 50 minutes, and out of that they get half or three quarters of an hour for rest; the other time they work; that is to say, they get half an hour in the hour, and three quarters of an hour out of the hour and 50 minutes; and the time for changing the yarn upon these rollers we cannot bring into the regular meal hours; but then these persons have double the rest of any of the other workers.

3587. Then I gather from your evidence that there are in point of fact no very long hours in the sense in which those words had been used by other witnesses?—No.

3588. It has been stated by Mr. Turnbull, and I believe by other witnesses, that the workmen in Lancashire in these cotton works are quite unanimous, and wishing there should be a legislative enactment; do you know that in Scotland it is not so at all?—It is not so general, as far as I can understand.

3589. We have had a good deal of evidence as to the severity of the work in the bleaching factories, that the workers are positively not able to stand, and that they have to leave their employment; is there anything of that kind in Scotland?—Nothing connected with yarning and bleaching; a more healthy set of women, or better dressed at Church on a Sunday, is not to be seen than in our parish.

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3590. Do you believe them to be as healthy, as well paid, as well educated, and as correct a class of the community as any others?—Yes, I do.

3591. And there has been no demand for legislative interference originating in them?—Not originating from them.

3592. Can you tell me if the bleaching of linen yarn is carried on in the county of Fife like that in your immediate neighbourhood, to all intents and purposes, being an out-door occupation?—It is.

3593. It is as dependent upon the weather as the taking in of a crop of hay?—Not quite so much as that, perhaps, but still it does depend very much upon the weather.

3594. As far as the drying of yarns is concerned, is it not dependent upon the weather?—Because in cool weather we stove, and the farmer cannot do that.

3595. Are you aware that the females employed in these bleaching works in Fife are notoriously and proverbially the most healthy women in the country?—Yes, they are indeed.

3596. It is a proverb, is it not?—It has been very often remarked by persons there, and I have remarked myself what a fine race of women they were.

3597. Of course you know that in these works it would be almost impossible, in consequence of the dependence on the state of the weather, to regulate the hours by legislative enactment, as you admit is quite within the limits of possibility with regard to a factory, and where the work is carried on within four walls?—If we were limited to certain hours, say 10 hours a day, to stop at six, then perhaps we should be limited to a Bill of nine hours and a half a day, because we could not stop our people in the middle of washing a parcel of yarn, and therefore if we were not allowed to work a little before and a little after the time, we should lose 10, 11, 12, 15, or 20 minutes a day.

3598. Have you any difficulty in procuring hands?—No, no more difficulty than in any other district; there is a shortness of hands generally.

3599. Are you aware that bleaching is the most popular sort of labour?—It is generally managed by one class of persons.

3600. Are they very like the rural population, the cotters?—They are cotters at my place; my people all live within three-quarters of a mile of the place in their own cottages; and girls employed at the work whose parents have not cottages, live with other cottagers as lodgers; I have no women's house.

3601. Then would you fear that the effect of any interference by legislative enactment would be to drive your rural population into the towns?—I have great fear that it would.

3602. If your present class of workers were driven into the towns, you would have to get others from the towns?—Of course.

3603. And this system of living in cottages, and families working from generation to generation in the same work, would in a great measure be interfered with?—I do not exactly see how that should be.

3604. Probably you have not thought about the subject?—I have not thought about the subject very much.

3605. In all these bleaching works there is a great deal of land attached?—Yes, a good deal; there is always a large space of ground for spreading and drying our yarns.

3606 What is the largest place; how many acres?—We have about 17 acres. We employ 40 boys, 43 women, and 70 men.

3607. *Chairman.*] Does the evidence you have given respecting the hours of labour apply to the majority or to all the bleaching works in that part of Scotland in which you are connected, or only to your own?—It refers to the districts of Forfarshire and Aberdeenshire.

3608. Mr. *Baxter.*] Does it refer to Fifeshire also?—Yes.

3609. *Chairman.*] Does it apply to Perthshire?—No. Something more than two years ago there was a movement amongst the workers to have the hours reduced one hour a day. Our man came to me, and said, was I willing to do so; I said I was quite agreeable if all the others were; and it was general without any combination at all amongst the masters, or any arrangement.

3610. So far as you know, that arrangement does not apply to the bleaching works that lie in the county of Perth?—Not, so far as I know.

3611. Mr. *Kirk.*] Pray, how do you arrange in winter; at what hour do you begin to spread yarns in the winter?—We begin at daylight, the girls having been previously employed in-doors.

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3612. What time do you cease working in the winter?—At six o'clock.

3613. Are you able even in winter to give employment before daylight and after dark?—Yes; we do it in this way: we give them the short yarns to do certain things with, which they can do in the house.

3614. You gave employment to that sort?—Yes, we arranged it.

3615. Then you have not specific settled employment for each person, or for each set of hands?—Yes, we have so far, that the persons who worked in the field come in in the morning in winter, and worked two or three hours in the house, and then do the field work outside; in case of frost, or when extra labour was required, we sent out more hands from the bleaching-house, which of course keeps the bleaching-house back, and that has to be made up by a little extra time.

3616. Then you can turn out certain hands in the middle of the day, and bring those hands back to work at night?—Yes, we are obliged to do so in frost and bad weather.

Mr. *Henry Samuel Boase,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. S. Boase.*

3617. Mr. *Baxter.*] WHAT is your occupation?—A bleacher.

3618. In what neighbourhood?—In the neighbourhood of Dundee; three miles from Dundee.

3619. Are you the managing partner of one of the most extensive bleaching fields in Scotland?—I am.

3620. What is the name of that bleaching field?—Claverhouse Bleaching Field.

3621. You have heard the evidence which has been given by Mr. Drimminie; do you generally concur with the statement that he has made?—Yes, generally.

3622. Do you think that the operatives employed in those bleaching fields are an exceedingly healthy class of people?—Yes; I may speak pretty strongly on that subject, being acquainted with the operatives in the west of England, at the north of Scotland, and throughout the kingdom, and I do not know a more healthy or a more quiet or orderly population in the country.

3623. Do you yourself personally take a great interest in the labouring classes?—A great interest.

3624. In their social state?—I have laid out a considerable sum to make them comfortable.

3625. Are you aware that there is any discontent among the operatives employed in those fields, or any desire for legislation?—Perhaps I must make a little explanation there; I cannot say exactly that I have not heard any; but the last time I was up here, when the Bill was through the House, on my return I found, to my surprise, that there had been some of our people—I was not aware of the fact before—signed a petition to Parliament.

3626. You misunderstand me; I wish you to tell me whether or not there was any dissatisfaction with the hours, with the labour, until influences were brought to bear among your workpeople from England?—Certainly not; I never heard a complaint; indeed, to the contrary, those that have been in communication with this country have said that we have met all their applications, and have studied all their wishes.

3627. You believe that there is no class of workmen in this kingdom who were less hard worked, and who were more healthy and better paid in proportion to their services than those very people?—Certainly.

3628. Have you read the report of the Commissioner as far as refers to these linen and bleaching fields?—I have.

3629. Do you accept that report, with the evidence upon which it is founded, as complete and satisfactory?—I do not.

3630. Why?—It is not enough, it gives a general idea, but in order to be satisfactory, it ought to have gone more minutely into the investigation; the people of the different works were not examined; their case was not made out.

3631. Do you consider that it was possible for the Commissioner, in the very short time he spent in the neighbourhood, to have made himself master of the subject?—No more than getting a general knowledge, which at the time I understood was all that was necessary.

3632. You know, I suppose, that there are some statements in this report which are not strictly correct; Mr. Tremenheere, at page 33 of this report, says,

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"Deviations from the arrangements would thus be prevented, which when resorted to, place those employers who adhere to the general understanding under considerable disadvantage;" as far as you are aware, there have been no such deviations?—I believe not.

3633. Your masters and men understand that there is to be no excessive over-time?—We understand such to be the nature of the work; we have calculated the hours between the workers and the masters, and we have strictly adhered to that, that is to say, for the ordinary day.

3634. But you have occasionally over-time?—We have.

3635. What does that arise from?—In a great measure from the state of the weather, or indirectly from the state of the river; first of all, we have a surplus of water from the fields which makes stoppages; at other times the water is very dirty, and we cannot work and wash our goods; at other times the water is so small that it is not sufficient to turn the machinery.

3636. So in point of fact it comes to this, from some causes you work an hour or two short time, and other days longer?—Whenever these stoppages take place, they generally take place for several hours, whereas the work generally runs one or two hours a day.

3637. Do you think that the effect of legislative enactment with this matter would be to drive the cotter population of your bleaching fields into large towns more?—It would have this effect, that the children grown up and growing up of the cottage population, not finding occupation, in consequence of frequent hindrances of this sort, unless we can occasionally work over-time, we cannot compensate for the loss of time which the weather occasions, the consequence would be that they would remove to other places where they would be fully occupied.

3638. Has that been the case before?—Yes.

3639. Has your population fluctuated as it is?—No.

3640. Is it a fact that many of your people have been in your employment from 10 even to 30 years?—We have 47 cottagers, and out of those 47, a great number have been from 20 to 30, and even 38 years, and from 10 to 20 the greater part of them, and of course a few under 10 years, replacing those that have died off; but I have been connected with it some 30 years, and out of that number I should think there were at least a dozen or 15 that have been there before I became connected with the works.

3641. Do you know anything in your own works, or in those of your neighbours, that is injurious in the slightest degree to the health of women and children?—It is a very healthy occupation; they are well and happy.

3642. Is it not the same in all?—Yes.

3643. Is it one of the most healthy occupations in which a worker can be engaged?—Yes; and it would be accounted for in this way, that our work is not continuous; it is not oppressive, even with extra hours. Our work is quiet; they are able to talk to each other and walk about from place to place; there is no driving; there is no following machinery constantly; it is just hand-work; they get rest.

3644. Are your operatives a healthy and long-lived race of men?—Yes, they have pensioners 80 and 85 years of age.

3645. Are the women and children healthy also?—Yes.

3646. Is it not the very last occupation, in your opinion, with which the Legislature would be justified in interfering upon the score of over-time or ill health?—I think it is.

3647. A great many years ago, I understand, there was a great deal of over-time; has there been a great improvement within the last 20 years?—A considerable improvement; when I first knew Scotland they worked almost invariably to eight or nine o'clock, and now it is a rare exception, with the exception, allow me to say, of one class of people called beetlers in the linens.

3648. This improvement has been brought about, I suppose I am right in saying, by a gradual feeling on the part of masters and operatives that over-time was prejudicial?—Yes, and I may say that the masters were not in the habit of anticipating above a certain amount of labour; but now the persons themselves are making the pressure, they are opposed to after-time as much as possible, except in cases where it is necessary, knowing that it is brought about from the state

state of the weather; but if it is to meet an order for over-work not being interrupted by the weather, those persons would interfere at once, and be restive.

3649. In fact, they are more in a position to dictate to you than you are to them?—I believe in less than five years we should be even in a more favourable state, the workpeople would be, than the Act contemplates.

3650. Do you employ any very young children?—We seldom employ them under 13; we have seven under 15 now.

3651. Is it a rare thing and a very exceptional case, done from some charitable motive, if a master admits a child from 10 to 13?—From 12 to 13; occasionally we have one to oblige a workman; the labour they do is scarcely any work at all, moving sluices to let water run into pipes, and when it is filled, letting them run into another.

3652. Are the children generally well educated for their rank in life?—Yes; their parents send them all to the parish school till they are 12 years of age; all the children on our works can read and write.

3653. Do you believe that this evidence of yours applies to all the linen works on the west coast of Scotland?—I believe it does.

3654. Has your attention been directed to that very remarkable exception quoted by Mr. Tremenheere in his report—namely, the evidence of Mr. Daniel Forbes, of Cairnfield, near Perth, who makes some very startling statements with regard to the hours at which the operatives are employed, in which they are generally so tired as to fall down and go to sleep in a moment; have you read his evidence and the report founded upon it?—I have read it; as employing bleachers I cannot conceive that such a statement about falling asleep from overwork can have any truth at all in it.

3655. Any man sometimes in a monotonous employment or work may fall asleep?—Just the same as sailors when off duty will lie down and go to sleep immediately; but now less than formerly, because you will find the women reading; they spend part of their time in reading; they have generally got about two or two and a quarter hours before the shift; they can do nothing but sit about, and if they have nothing to engage their attention, the monotonous state throws them asleep.

3656. Is it not very singular that this evidence of Mr. Forbes is not substantiated by others?—It is so, and I was rather surprised at seeing that evidence, and I made inquiries on the subject.

3657. I understand you to say that your operatives have been many years with you?—Many years, particularly these beetlers.

3658. And is it generally the case with regard to these linen works?—I believe so.

3659. And particularly so with regard to foremen, those in charge?—They are generally men that have been on the place a long time; one of ours has been there 20 years, and the other 26 or 27.

3660. Are you aware that Mr. Daniel Forbes has lost three situations in a very short time?—I have been so informed on good authority.

3661. From all you have been informed and told he is not a reliable authority?—His character did not seem to be very correct; but whether or not, I should have thought that such an important point as that ought to have additional evidence from the work-persons on the spot, and also from other fields.

3662. Have you not met masters connected with Perth and the neighbourhood, who have smiled incredulously whenever you have mentioned the name of this man?—Certainly.

3663. Do you know what he is doing now?—I believe he is no longer employed by bleaching fields.

3664. Do you know why he was dismissed from any of his situations?—Three years before this inquiry I was informed that he was dismissed from L———— bleaching field.

3665. Do you know the reason why he was dismissed?—I am only speaking from hearsay.

3666. Do you not know that Mr. Tremenheere made an inquiry with regard to the truthfulness and character of the parties from whom he took evidence?—That I cannot tell; indeed I knew nothing about this party until I inquired into it.

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3667. But is it not notorious among all those who have been interested in this question upon the east coast of Scotland, that this Mr. Daniel Forbes' evidence conflicted with that of all the others?—I have read the Blue Book, and I find it is not borne out by the Blue Book.

3668. Are you in the same trade; were you not perfectly astonished at the statement which he makes?—Not at the long hours for the beetlers, they are employed for a considerable length of time; but at the effect, saying that excessive work made them so drowsy and monotonous, that would imply that they were in a bad state of health or debilitated.

3669. In all these consequences that you inferred to follow from it, you differ with him as to that?—Certainly. There is one other circumstance which Forbes mentioned that I cannot speak to, that is, the employment at two o'clock in the morning; that is not followed in our part of the country.

3670. *Chairman.*] I think you have told us that you have read the whole of the evidence in the Blue Book?—In connection with the east of Scotland.

3671. Have you referred to the questions which were put to Mr. Turnbull immediately after the examination of Mr. Forbes?—Yes.

3672. Do you think that Mr. Turnbull's evidence is open to the same remark?—I think his evidence is correct. I think he does not mention the effect it had upon the persons being so exhausted and drowsy.

3673. What I want to know is, whether you agree in the fact as to the hours which are stated, first of all by Mr. Daniel Forbes, and secondly by Mr. Turnbull?—As regards the excessive hours, decidedly.

3674. And all you quarrel with is as to the effects?—As to the conclusions drawn from them.

3675. Mr. *Baxter.*] You do not know of your own personal knowledge that these hours are so long?—I can say this; when we had work, which we have not for the last five years, we have been employed fully as long as there stated for the beetling of cloth; that is, as I stated, an exception—we employ three women.

3676. Mr. *Davison.*] Are your works driven by water or steam?—We have four water-wheels and four steam-engines, and when the water fails we put on the steam.

3677. *Chairman.*] Have you stoves?—Yes, we have some of the old stoves still in operation, but very slightly; they are only worked by men; but I have had now completed, at the beginning of the year, a patent stove, in which the persons put in the yarn and take it out in rooms as airy and cool, and even more so than this apartment; they never feel any heat whatever; in order to avoid it altogether they go through a long tunnel; the yarn and the linens only are exposed to the heat, and not the person; they come out cooled to the temperature of the external atmosphere.

3678. Are these stoves being adopted by others?—I have only had it six months in operation; but it works perfectly satisfactory; it is a great improvement for the power-loom work, but exceedingly expensive to put up; it took me 12 months to erect them, at a very considerable cost.

3679. What would be the heat in the old stove?—Varying from 120 to 130 degrees.

3680. Are women engaged?—There is never a woman employed, only the men; they merely take in the yarn and bring it out again; they are in for a few minutes only at a time.

3681. Are you a medical gentleman?—I graduated in the year 1821.

3682. Therefore, you wish the Committee to take your evidence as to the effect of the hours and the other details of the business in which you are concerned as coming with the authority of a medical gentleman?—I can speak with that authority, as well as with a general knowledge; I think the Commissioner's Report will bear me out, that the people are very healthy; I directed his attention to it when he was in Scotland, walking through the works, that they are all a very healthy, cheerful, happy, contented people.

3683. You have given some answers with respect to the works in the county of Perth; are you yourself personally acquainted with the nature of the business carried on in these establishments in Perthshire?—I believe it is very similar to our own; the beetling is the one that employs the people very long hours; at times, indeed,

indeed, we have at our own works, some five years ago, worked six months together, day and night.

3684. And now you have reduced it by an agreement with your workmen?—Yes; over-time being superseded by certain work.

3685. Are you aware that similar effects have been produced by similar causes in other establishments about Perth; whether they have come to a similar arrangement?—My arrangement is want of work, that trade being superseded by the cotton trade.

3686. Can you speak from your own knowledge as to the state of things in Perthshire at this moment?—I believe they work those long hours still; and we occasionally work all night now.

3687. Mr. *Baxter.*] Are you not aware that in the neighbourhood of Perth there has been an alteration in the hours?—I am not aware of any change since the report; but during this night work it is not so very excessive as would generally appear, because they have always from two or three hours' rest between a shift, and during the night; by the manner in which they manage it, and one of the men watching the machinery, they have double that, so that they get four or five hours' sleep during the night.

3688. *Chairman.*] Have those women, who remain in the works all night, any facilities or opportunities of resting in a decent sort of way; do you provide them with any bed or sleeping accommodation?—They are upon benches, with a kind of straw bed laid down upon them, which they recline upon, and also a house adjoining, in which there is a fire continually in the winter time.

3689. Are the sexes divided?—No.

3690. Do you think that is a correct system?—Mr. Turnbull mentions that he thinks there is some immorality in it; but I was not aware of it in our case. I only know one instance of any ill effects of it, and I think that will go to show that it cannot arise from the position in the house; and that young woman was working in the same room with her father and her uncle, and I do not suppose that anything improper could have taken place in that apartment.

3691. Mr. *Cobbett.*] In all your experience, did you never hear of but that one case that you have spoken of?—Yes; but not one in our own place.

3692. You have probably heard it very much spoken of?—I have not been mixing much with my brother bleachers to get that sort of information.

3693. I understand you to say, that at beetling the men and women do not work together all through the night?—They are in the same room, just the same as they would be in this apartment, and there may be one bench here and another at the other end of the room.

3694. The women and men, therefore, would work throughout the night in this same room?—Yes, the women and men, but with one watcher to watch the machinery; and the women would be at one end, lying on a kind of sofa, until they were called to shift the beams.

3695. How often do the beams require shifting?—Every four hours; and it occupies about three-quarters out of every four hours.

3696. And that is done every four hours?—Yes, throughout the night. Then they can take two half-hours following, and fill up the additional quantity immediately, and then rest until both are worked off.

3697. Then, when they have shifted, they lie down upon these benches?—Yes, or on the benches in the room adjoining, where there is a fire in the winter.

3698. *Chairman.*] Then the arrangement you have spoken of, not to work extra, does not apply to the beetling process?—No.

3699. Is there any other process to which the arrangement does not apply?—Generally you may say it does not apply; that is, we are always working either under or over time. It is, upon an average, taking the year round, about 60 hours a week work.

3700. Will you tell me how you arrive at that average?—Sometimes we stop for two or three days together in consequence of the weather, and without the means of making up that time the people would not get their wages; our work would fall behind. We are so often hindered by the weather by high winds and rain, frost and snow, and deficiency of water.

3701. Mr. *Baxter.*] Do you know how many females are employed in this beetling operation in all the works together?—I should think about 70 or 80.

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3702. In the whole part of the country?—About that.

3703. Mr. *Cobbett.*] In the whole of Scotland?—I should think about that; we have three, and frequently only one of them is employed; the others are men, and they are principally employed in stitching.

3704. *Chairman.*] What I am anxious to know is, how under the present arrangement there is any security against these long hours being worked for a considerable period of time together?—The great security is that persons are not willing to work, and we are not disposed to employ our men except to make up a case of necessity arising from out-door work.

3705. Is it likely the over-hours would go on for three weeks or a month together?—Sometimes longer, and perhaps altogether they only make up what they have lost during two or three or four weeks previously; I have known them for many weeks together to leave off work at dinner time.

3706. As a medical gentleman, do you think these hours conducive to the health of the women and young persons engaged?—I think that they have no ill effects upon them because the work is not excessive; the work is so easy, and they have so many rests, that it does not oppress them, and it only arises out of a great deal of short work, during which time they often wait and get relief, go home and do their own needlework, or go to school, or if they are fathers of families they attend to their cottages and their little gardens, and therefore there is change of occupation and relief. I think that is more conducive to their health than continuous ten hours' labour in a factory following machinery, which must be excessively exhausting.

3707. You do not employ women in the stoves?—Only men; and now I have a patent by which the men are not exposed to so high a temperature.

3708. Supposing the women were employed in these stoves at these long hours, and for a month or two at a time, do you think that there would be any ill effects from it?—I think the ill effects would not be to the extent upon the ten hours; but the question would be with me, whether it should be tolerated at all, or whether it should be abolished; for if a person is accustomed to work ten hours a day, we are such creatures of habit that the system must get accustomed to it, and a person under such circumstances would not feel an extra few hours like another person who has not been accustomed to that work at all. What I mean to say is, that the system adapts itself to this work. I do not think there is that oppression that *primâ facie* you would suppose there would be from visiting such a place. You would find it intolerable, insupportable; but if you remained there a week or a month, at 10 hours a day, you would get so accustomed to it that you would not feel it so oppressive.

3709. I am asking about a system which I understand greatly exceeds 10 hours a day?—Of course if 10 hours is an evil in itself, any additional time must make that greater; there is no question about that; but the question is, whether the evil itself can be avoided. I believe and hope it will very shortly.

3710. Mr. *Davison.*] Your process of bleaching, I understand you, is very much dependent upon the elements?—Very much indeed.

3711. Heavy rains, for instance, interfere with the ordinary process, from the effects it produces on the river?—Yes, making the water dirty.

3712. And this business is carried on in the fields for a certain time?—Yes.

3713. Then the persons employed in that go into another department and work?—Yes.

3714. The beetling then, I understand you, is carried on within doors?—Yes, and with the same persons.

3715. Then those persons cannot expedite the process of beetling, but they are dependent upon mechanical operations, that is, the beetling process goes on upon the linen, and must go on for a certain number of hours?—Certainly.

3716. And during those hours the persons in attendance upon the beetling engines do no work?—No, except shifting.

3717. They do no work until the shifting comes?—Certainly.

3718. This shift, as I understand it, consists in taking off the linen, which is rolled upon these beams, and either fresh linen is put on, or the linen turned?—Yes;

Yes; and which work is very light; it is just the lifting it off with the finger, and when it goes on smoothing it with the hands.

3719. The fingers are sufficient?—Yes; and it is turned by a handle, and so gets relapped upon the beams. It is turned under again, and they smooth it as it goes on.

3720. The process of labour, then, either in taking off or putting on the linen upon the beams is extremely light?—It is extremely light; a very small child might do it.

3721. Then when the linen is again put on, the water is let on the wheel, and the beetles are put to work to beetle the linen; is not that the process?—Yes; there is always a double set.

3722. Until four hours elapse, then, there is no work for the people to do?—No.

3723. In the whole of this work which you have described, the work in the fields, and the work within doors, you say it has no injurious effect upon the workpeople; on the contrary, that they are extremely healthful?—The beetling work has always been one that has been looked for and coveted, because it is so light, and if they are ever turned out from the work and put into another department, they are quite incapable of going to it, just as a sailor would be if you put him to farm work.

3724. Mr. *Baxter.*] Is it a favourite employment, then, amongst the workpeople?—Very much so.

3725. And not more unhealthy than any other?—No; some beetlers are the oldest people in the works. I recollect seeing a man near Edinburgh, who had been beetler for nearly 60 years.

3726. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You stated that the work was rarely continued so long now as it used to be?—Yes.

3727. When was it first shortened at all, do you remember?—It was shortened about 10 years ago.

3728. That would be in 1847?—About that time.

3729. Were you in business at that time?—I have been in Scotland 19 years.

3730. Then, in 1847, were the hours of work shortened upon agreement between the masters and workmen?—No; the extra time was cut off, not by mutual agreement; the agreement was about two and a half or three years ago.

3731. What you told us about the shortening of time, then, about 10 years ago, was it upon an application of the workpeople to have their time shortened?—No; it was the conviction of the masters that these excessive hours were not necessary, and were to their disadvantage.

3732. That was about the time that the Ten Hours Act for the factories was passed?—Yes, about that time.

3733. Then the people did not object to the shortening of the hours, did they?—No, and for this reason: it took place at the same time with another movement in the country; wages became very much advanced in consequence of railways and other works throughout the country; wages were increased some 40 or 50 per cent., and in consequence of that they stood in less need of these long hours, and this operating, together with the inclination of the masters, and the individuals being better provided for, produced it.

3734. Do you not mean that the wages having advanced 50 per cent. they were rather better off and became rather more independent?—Yes.

3735. And they said, "If you do not shorten the hours, we will go to the railroads"?—No; I do not think it operated in that way.

3736. You say that the men became more independent of their masters in consequence of the rise?—Yes.

3737. How did that operate upon the people in your bleaching establishment?—It made them less disposed to work the long hours.

3738. Then I suppose they wished the long hours to be abolished, did they not?—Provided they had the means.

3739. Did it not almost amount to a threat, that if you did not shorten the hours of work they would go to the railways?—I do not think it went that length.

3740. Was it not something of this kind; Did not the masters feel that now their workpeople had become so independent of them that they must either abolish

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the long hours of work, or that they would lose their work; was not that the feeling?—I cannot recollect any such feeling as that.

3741. I have put it to you in two or three different ways, as to how the rise of wages operated upon the master and the men?—I am speaking more of my own experience than any other; and my feeling immediately I got to Scotland was, that I would endeavour to shorten the hours.

3742. What, 19 years ago?—It is about 10 years ago that I took the management of the works, and during the first nine years I was there I was constantly urging the shortening of the hours, because that I felt they were oppressively long, and the cause of great loss of money. The persons were only undergoing the time; they were doing their work properly during the day, in order to get it back; but the difficulty with my partners was this, "They cannot get their wages."

3743. You say the hours were oppressively long; how do you mean?—They generally work till nine at night.

3744. From what time in the morning?—From six in the morning.

3745. You described just now to the Honourable Member who examined you, that the persons in these establishments were the most cheerful, healthy, robust, and satisfied of any persons in the world?—I believe they are so, more particularly at present.

3746. What I want to know is, why you should have thought it so oppressive, as for you to be nine years endeavouring to get your partners to assist you in shortening the hours, when these persons were so proverbially satisfied and joyous as scarcely to seem to require such a thing?—I think my remarks to the Honourable Member were with reference to the present time; I was not going back to bygone times.

3747. From what part of England did you come?—From Cornwall.

3748. When you first went to Scotland and entered into this business, it struck you that the hours of work were oppressively long?—Too long, and I always urged a reduction.

3749. And you set to work, and for nine years busied yourself from time to time endeavouring to persuade your partners, and gentlemen connected with the same trade, to reduce the hours?—Yes.

3750. And it was from having observed the working of the then system that you thought it was requisite to make a change in the hours?—Yes; which I was able to carry out as soon as the people got better wages.

3751. The change took place about 1847?—I am speaking about that time.

3752. You said something to this effect, that in less than five years we should be in a better state even than the Bill contemplates?—Yes; I meant to say that there is a progress going on between the workmen and the masters; there is a better understanding between them, and they are working more friendly together; in fact, it is a duolism; a master and man cannot be separated; the interest of the one is clearly the interest of the other.

3753. And you think that the understanding is so good, and is making such progress, that in a very short time whatever is reasonable will be adopted?—I believe we have all that is reasonable at present.

3754. Then you do not think any further improvement will take place?—There is a general good feeling among the parties.

3755. What are the wages; how are they paid?—There are two modes in which we pay, by the piece and by the day; the piece workers can earn, the men from 3*s.* to about 3*s.* 6*d.* per day, and the women from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, according to the kind of work they are at; 2*s.* 6*d.* a day is the men's wages, ordinarily speaking, taking one with another, and the women's 1*s.*

Mr. *James Robertson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Robertson.*

3756. Mr. *Baxter.*] YOU are a Linen Yarn Bleacher, I believe?—Yes.

3757. At Rothe's works, in the county of Fife?—Yes.

3758. Have you been all your life in that trade?—Since I was able to work.

3759. For more than 30 years?—Upwards of 30 years.

3760. Have you worked in various departments?—Yes; for the first 10 years I was a general worker; but I have been mostly in the drying department for the last 20 years.

3761. Do you think it a healthy employment?—Yes; I have had my health pretty good all the time.

3762. You are not speaking for yourself, but for others; do you think it a healthy employment in general?—Yes; it is mostly outdoor labour.

3763. Are you a more healthy class of persons than others?—I don't say we are healthier than others, but I think we are quite as healthy.

3764. The work in these bleaching-fields is very much dependent on the weather, is it not?—Yes.

3765. Just as farming is dependent on the weather?—Yes, drying in particular.

3766. Are the goods dried in the open air?—In the open air, when they will do so.

3767. You mean when it is good weather?—Yes.

3768. And if it is bad weather, you dry in the house?—Yes.

3769. All the work you do in the open air, of course is dependent on the weather?—Yes.

3770. How do you do in wet weather?—We put it on the beams in the house.

3771. You have a good deal of difficulty in the winter and in rainy months, have you not?—Yes, there is more labour; at some time there is a sudden emergency or a sudden draught is required, and all the hands are employed at a certain house.

3772. Upon those occasions, did all the hands require to remain until the yarn is put in a certain condition?—Yes.

3773. What kind of yarn do manufacturers like best, the yarn that is dried in the open air, or that which is dried in the house?—That which is dried in the open air.

3774. When the weather is unsettled, of course there was great delay caused, was there not?—Yes.

3775. Did the people ever work in the evening beyond the stated hours?—Very seldom.

3776. But occasionally they did?—Occasionally, but it was very rare.

3777. They came to shake the yarn?—That was in the winter season.

3778. If the yarn were not shaken then, what would happen to it?—It would not be a good finish.

3779. It would render the yarn very difficult to work?—Very difficult to wind.

3780. Have you much broken time throughout the year?—Yes, more than we could wish.

3781. What does that arise from?—From the weather and dull trade.

3782. Does it ever arise from a hard frost?—Yes.

3783. When you have a very hard frost, you have comparatively little to do?—Yes.

3784. And then you have very short time?—Yes.

3785. Do the women and boys complain strongly of the hard work that they have, or rather the few holidays?—No, I have heard no complaint.

3786. Do they complain sometimes that they do not know what to do with themselves; that they have more holidays than they want?—Yes, I have heard the complaint.

3787. On the whole, are they perfectly well satisfied with their condition?—Yes, I think so.

3788. Only sometimes they work a little longer than six and sometimes not so long; the time varies very much, does it not?—Yes.

3789. Is it very much the same thing in all that class of works?—In the majority of all the fields that I know there are the same rules.

3790. In these fields you have, on an average, about 60 hours a week?—Sixty hours a week.

3791. Sometimes more and sometimes less?—Yes.

3792. But you have no complaints?—No.

3793. Have there been any attempts to present a petition to Parliament?—I have heard of none.

3794. Have you ever been asked to sign a petition?—No.

3795. Are there many women and boys employed at these works?—Twenty-eight full women, and girls; 40 females in all.

 3796. How

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3796. How many boys?—Two.

3797. Are there many boys employed in Fife generally in these works?—I do not know any other fields that keep boys; there are only two boys for turning over the yarn on the grass.

3798. Can the persons in works generally read and write?—Yes.

3799. Do they ever go away from their work in consequence of it being too hard for them?—No.

3800. You never heard of such a thing?—No.

3801. In your life?—No.

3802. You do not believe that there is such a thing in that part of the country?—Never, where I am.

3803. Mr. *Cobbett.*] How many hours in the day do you think it is proper for women and young children to work?—I am well satisfied with 10 hours.

Mr. *James Thompson,* called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *J. Thompson.*

3804. Mr. *Cobbett.*] WE have heard statements made, that in the stoves where the women work they frequently faint away; have you any knowledge of that yourself?—Yes.

3805. What do you say to it?—It is on account of the excessive heat.

3806. Did you ever know it to take place?—Yes; I have seen it very often.

3807. And what is done with them when they faint away?—They are just carried out and taken into the women's house, if there is a woman's house there; and if not, into the nearest dwelling-house that can be got.

3808. Do they come back again to their work?—Sometimes, and sometimes not.

3809. Does this frequently take place?—Yes.

3810. Have you known it to happen two or three times in a day?—I have known it to happen once in a day continuously for two or three days. I beg to state, that after working till past 12 o'clock at night, a girl sometimes has to walk three or four miles home, and to be at her work next morning at six o'clock.

3811. That is where they do not live in the woman's house?—Yes; except they like to take a hard bed and lie till six in the morning.

3812. Mr. *Kirk.*] At what hour does this fainting generally take place?—In the morning.

3813. Have you ever heard any cause stated for its taking place particularly in the morning?—On account of the fatigue they have suffered the evening before; they are sick, and not able to stand.

Martis, 30° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.
Lord John Manners.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Wise.

LORD JOHN MANNERS IN THE CHAIR.

Jonathan Richardson, Esq., a Member of The House; Examined.

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3814. Mr. *Kirk.*] ARE you Member for the Borough of Lisburn?—Yes.

3815. What is your firm and your place of residence?—Richardson & Company, Lambeg Bleach Works, Lisburn, Ireland.

3816. How long have you been engaged in bleaching?—More than 35 years.

3817. How many workpeople do you employ?—From 300 to 400, according to the season of the year, and the plentifulness of work.

3818. Do you bleach linen or cotton?—We bleach very few cottons; almost exclusively linen.

3819. Do you consider the occupation healthful?—I consider it very much so, for the greens are almost all situated in the country, and there is so much open-air work connected with our business. The boys who are brought into our works generally begin on light out-door work, and that has an effect in strengthening the constitution by the time they are brought into the house works; and I have known instances of very great longevity among our people who had been all their life-time connected with bleach works in the different departments of the bleaching. And I can give a further instance of the salubrity of the bleach works from the fact that when the cholera visited Ireland, we had very few instances of cases connected with our works, and all those that were attacked recovered; while in the neighbouring spinning mill, situated in the country and under the Factory Act, they had a number of cases of cholera and a considerable proportion of deaths.

3820. Are all your workers sometimes employed in and sometimes out of doors?—We have different sets of bleachers; those who work outside are always kept outside, unless there is some change, and they have to work inside; and those who work inside many of them are not fit to work outside; their manner of working is not such that they can be put from one class of work to another advantageously to themselves or to us.

3821. What are your general hours of labour?—Our bell rings at half-past five o'clock in the morning to commence work, and at six o'clock in the evening; and for the men and general workers there is an hour and three-quarters allowed for breakfast and for dinner; and for the women who work in the stoves two and a half hours, because they get some extra minutes to go out and cool themselves. Those are the general hours, and we keep as close to them as we can.

3822. Can you keep strictly to those hours?—We cannot always begin exactly at the time that our bell rings, for some of the portions of cloth which are in the boiling process, or have been during the night, or in the dipping process, have to be drawn out by the men, preparatory to their being washed. A part of the men commence work at once, but then some of them do not commence for some time afterwards. And then at the quitting hours some of our men may be employed when the bell rings, in filling some of the boilers, or some of the vessels where the dips and sorns are, and of course they cannot quit immediately on the bell ringing, otherwise the property would run the risk of being damaged before they came back from meals, and therefore they are allowed extra time afterwards.

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3823. Is the work of the linen bleachers subject to interruptions?—It is frequently subject to interruptions, particularly in winter, from the rain and storm and frost and snow, and then in the summer from droughts, so that on the average nearly a half more work can be done in summer than in winter. Besides, the processes for producing the same effect upon the linen are double what they are in summer, and there being less of the bleaching process effects the finishing by the beetles, and also the finishing by the stoves and the lapping rooms, and it prevents the whole business from going on systematically and regularly from the want of a supply of bleached goods, owing to these causes. And it is a great loss to the employer as well as to the workers; because, under those circumstances, particularly in the winter, the workers generally have to get loans from their employers to keep them from want, and those loans have to be repaid in the summer when we can give them extra work. Then, in addition to the interruptions from the weather, the bleaching is very much a season trade. We generally get the largest quantity of goods sent to our greens to bleach from January to May, when the season at that period of the year is least favourable to bleaching, and in the autumn the supply of cloth is generally one-third smaller than in the spring, although autumn is the season most suitable for bleaching, and thus at the end of the year and the beginning of the year the employers and the workers have to suffer loss from want of regular steady employment.

3824. Do you think it possible so to arrange the business of the linen bleach fields that the work might be done advantageously within limited hours, as in the spinning factories?—For many years I have been trying in vain to bring about such a change like that in our spinning mill.

3825. Have you a spinning mill?—Yes. In our spinning mill arrangements can be made in all seasons to begin work at a stated hour, and also to leave off work, without injury either to the workers or to the flax that is spinning. No one can tell in a bleach green the evening before, what time the work will commence in the morning. The frost or snow may prevent the field work from commencing until eight, nine, ten, or 12 o'clock in the day. It sometimes happens that they are stopped for days and weeks together, so that linen is often detained at the bleachers 14 and 16 weeks in the winter which in summer could be delivered in half the time.

3826. Is the employment in the linen bleach works continuous when not interrupted by weather or by the customers not supplying you with a sufficient quantity of cloth to keep on in full work?—When the process is going on the workers have frequently to wait till the cloth is ready for them in the way that I mentioned with respect to their not beginning to work at the regular hours, and of course that is a loss to them, as they are paid by the piece.

3827. Do you employ boys or women at your beetling engines?—We do not employ any women on our beetling engines, and we employ very few boys, and we make it a rule not to allow a boy to work any over-hours.

3828. Might not legislation be introduced advantageously for in-door work in the linen bleach fields?—I think not; for without the previous out-door work the in-door work cannot proceed, and although the in-door work is seldom stopped altogether by the weather, it is very much delayed in the winter.

3829. Are you of opinion that a limitation of the hours in linen bleach works would be advantageous to the workpeople?—I think not; it would only make linen bleaching a still more dangerous, tedious and uncertain process than it is at present, and that must tend to lessen the trade and restrict the demand for labour. Since the agitation that has arisen about short hours, we do not employ half the number of women we formerly did in our stoves, and they are now very seldom working overtime at all; and by limiting the quantity of cambric handkerchiefs that we bleach, and introducing machinery, we can do without a great many women, which must, of course, be a great loss to them. Since our stoves, some years ago, were first opened, it has caused an advance of the women's wages in that neighbourhood of upwards of 50 per cent.; and I think, in the course of a few years, we can do away altogether with employing women in our stoves, which would of course free our concern from the necessity of legislation, if any such necessity exists.

3830. Are you opposed to inspection and limitation of hours in your linen bleach works?—Of course I am opposed to it, because it would make a tedious, hazardous

hazardous and expensive process still more so, and must therefore be a loss to the employed as well as the employers, by causing more loss of time; and also by opening the way still further for foreign competition. I think it would be quite as reasonable to limit the hours of the farmers, and say that they must not plough and sow when the weather permits, and that they must not make hay while the sun shines, as to limit the hours in linen bleach works, which are more dependent upon the weather than the farmer is, since in the frost and snow the farmer can cart out the manure, and he can do various things advantageously about his farm, while the bleachers have to wait, with patience, until a thaw comes: and upon the average the bleacher is every month off his employment from seven to nine days, and some of them ten, including Sundays and holidays; that is, upon the whole year, one-third of the whole time.

3831. Have you any instances of that?—Yes.

3832. Will you give the Committee that information?—I have taken here the month of March 1856; at that time I expected to have been in some way connected with the opposition to this Bleach Bill, and of course that was one reason I made a memorandum at that time; I have made none very lately. In March 1856 there were 31 days; there were five Sundays in it; there was Good Friday, Easter Monday; there were five Saturdays, which take off a day and a half, making altogether eight and a half days of actual deductions. In addition to that, I do not know whether other workers are like ours, but they like to take a little play to themselves, I will not say how they employ it, whether advantageously or not, but they will make up two days more in that way, which leaves 20½ days of actual work. I find, that if you take the average of the time which the people are kept in work during the whole year, upon the average of six or seven years, I am quite sure that what I say is within the mark; that they do not work within one-third of the whole time each month.

3833. You mentioned that you have a number of women in the stove-rooms, do you consider ventilation necessary to the proper drying and finishing of linens, and if you do will you describe to the Committee how that ventilation is produced in your works?—With respect to ventilation, when we have to dry by steam we find it absolutely necessary. The best kind of drying is the open air, and when we have to employ steam the nearer we approach to the open air the better; therefore when we are drying our cambric handkerchiefs in the stoves at an average heat of 90 degrees, we have pure air coming in at the sides just above the piece, and being let off in the ceiling, which has the effect, as the women are walking along and pulling the pieces about, of crystalizing the starch and giving it a bright shining appearance; and in fact the action of the air on the drying of linen is of so much importance that it is just like a friction passing over the threads and giving a certain lustre to it; that cannot be done without pure fresh air. Then with respect to our other kind of drying where we do not employ women, but where we find that air is necessary, we employ very powerful fans to effect the same object.

3834. Is it not a well-known fact that you could not give the lustrous appearance to cambric handkerchiefs which you have to give to them without a current of pure air?—We could not.

3835. Does the pure air pass from the outside to the workpeople before it comes to the cloth?—Yes; the women have the first breath of it.

3836. Have you ever tried to arrange the works at the bleach fields so as regularly to stop at a fixed hour every day?—Yes; I have frequently tried it, but not with success, for frost and snow, or something connected with the weather, might interrupt the processes, so that the effect which we want is not produced on the linen. Then at the time appointed for stopping sometimes some of the men and part of the works have to be kept going until the linen is placed in a safe state till the next morning comes.

3837. What do you mean by a safe state?—I mean free from the risk of damage. The linen bleaching process is so long and so uncertain, and so many chemical agents are to be used in doing it, and possibly hundreds and thousands of pounds worth of linen have been damaged since I have been acquainted with the trade, and some of them altogether destroyed, for unless the chemical processes are attended to at the exact time, the risk becomes so great that you are almost sure to destroy the property.

3838. Have you read over Mr. Tremenheere's report?—Yes, I have read it over.

 3839. Have

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3839. Have you read over those observations that he applies to your evidence in his report?—Yes, I have.

3840. Do you conceive that the observations which he makes are borne out by the testimony which you gave him?—I think Mr. Tremenheere gave a very fair report of the conversation he and I had together.

3841. Then it was a conversation you had?—We had a conversation first.

3842. Had he a set of questions to propose to you?—I do not know whether he had a written set of questions to propose to me, but he asked me a set of questions, and after having gone over our works and having every facility of seeing them, and communicating with the workers as far as he wished, he then went into my drawing-room and read me over the notes that he had taken, and asked me whether I considered they were correct, and I told him, as far as I could judge, they were correct, but that when he had written them out if there was any question that he wished to ask me, I should be very glad before he sent his report to print, to give him every explanation. However, Mr. Tremenheere did not communicate with me afterwards, and I heard nothing further of him until I got his report. Now, in reading this report, I see there is one statement here which I am sure Mr. Tremenheere has unintentionally made, because I recollect myself; in the after part of his report, he says, at page 31, "In the case of Mr. Richardson's works, however, it will be seen by that gentleman's statement to me (paragraph 911), that he had already made arrangements by which he would not henceforward have any occasion to employ any of his people over-hours, and would consequently not be affected by any Act that may be passed upon this subject." Now that is a statement that I did not make to him. In making the statement I did to him, I merely referred to the women employed in the stoves, and I said that we had seldom, if ever, occasion to employ them over-hours, and by referring to page 74, it will be seen that I am borne out in what I have said, and that Mr. Tremenheere has unintentionally made a statement for me that I did not make. There he says, "this depends upon the length and severity of the previous winter, but although the last winter was both long and severe, we have made such arrangements as will prevent the necessity of our working the females over-hours in future." Now that is, I think, the only incorrectness, as far as I can judge. In my observation I only allude to female labour.

3843. And he applied it to the whole of the workmen?—Yes, which of course I never could have said, or intended to say. The work of course must go on until the cloth is placed in a safe state.

3844. Can you state to the Committee what is the actual time in the week during which the females and boys in your establishment are employed?—The boys who are on the field may be employed during a great part of the winter season from daylight to daylight, or they may not be employed half their time. It altogether depends upon the state of the ground and of the cloth. And then with respect to the in-doors work, when our bell rings at half-past five o'clock in the morning and again at six o'clock at night, the boys of course work within those limits, and go away when they are over, and the women also, it is very seldom that they work longer than that.

3845. And on Saturday?—On Saturday all the women and all the boys get away at two o'clock. If they are kept there it is for the winding up of the work, which is absolutely necessary to keep the cloth in a safe state until Monday morning.

3846. Just turn to the answer at page 74 given to question 912?—I have it.

3847. Does that apply to females only?—Yes, that applies to females only.

3848. How many hours are they working?—They only work ten hours a day.

3849. And that for how many days a week?—For five days a week, and only until two on Saturday. The paragraph which you refer to is as follows:—"As we allow our women in the stoves two hours and a half for meals and rest, their net hours of work are only ten." That is my answer.

3850. Could you give the Committee something like an approximation as to the actual number of hours worked per week by the females in your employ?—I have not made that correctly up, because if you take the average of ten hours a day for five days, that would be 50 hours, and then seven hours for the Saturday would make 57 hours. But then that is taking into account that our stoves are working the whole year round. Now, when the bleach green is stopped we cannot bleach, and the stoves are thrown out of work, because we have no cloth

cloth to keep them going with, and of course that would reduce the average of 57 hours.

3851. When they are at work is the average under 60 hours?—Yes; it is 57.

3852. Are you able to state to the Committee whether the women or boys work more than 60 hours a week now?—No; I am sure they do not.

3853. *Chairman.*] I think you stated that in the example you gave us in March, the cause why so many days were struck off was owing to Sundays and holidays?—Yes.

3854. Have not all the manufacturing and other establishments had the same deductions during that month?—They did not arise particularly from the bleaching.

3855. Can you give the Committee any statement to show the number of days in the course of a month, or in the course of a year, which would be taken away from your working, in consequence of any causes extending to the bleaching business alone?—Upon the average of years, as I mentioned before, it is about a month. That is a low average. We have been stopped six weeks; but a month on the average, I think, is a low average.

3856. Does that include the Sundays and holidays?—No; the month I allude to is a month of working days, including six days in the week.

3857. When you say that the women have two and a half hours from the stoves for meals and resting, are we to understand that they leave the stoves, or do they remain in them?—They go out of the stoves and occupy their time generally on the green grass, or else beside the water, if it is very hot weather. They are every one turned out to wash their hands and comb their hair; it is a kind of recreation to them.

3858. Did I rightly understand you to say that the number of women engaged in the stoves is decreasing?—Very much; and I can give the Committee a statement of it. In July 1854, we employed at our works, for the same amount of business as we are doing at present, 177 women. We made some changes before May 1855, and at that time we only had 118 women. We have made still further changes since, and now we only employ 68 women. So that, in reality, we have parted with 109 women since June 1854; that is a very large proportion; and we are now doing as much work at the present time by machinery, and with much less over-work than we did at that time, because, previous to that, we had the women there all night sometimes; but now, without the over-work, we do the same quantity of business with 68 or 70 women as we did with 177 in 1854.

3859. Is the Committee to understand that the women in the stoves do not work over-time at all?—Very seldom; there may be such a case, but it is quite the exception. I think that has only been the case this year, about four times since January.

3860. Can you tell the Committee for what time that over-work would be continued?—It might be till eight or nine o'clock in the evening. The stove women are all working by the piece as well as the men, and if they happen not to be supplied with cloth, and they had not been regular, we gave them the opportunity of working some over-hours to make up their wages, at the end of the fortnight; that was they way it occurred.

3861. When they do work over-time have they any extra hours for resting or meals?—Of course, because they quit as if they were going to quit altogether at the regular time, and then all that work extra hours begin again in perhaps from 30 or 40 minutes; we are not very particular about their beginning very exactly, as would be the case if they were day labourers, of course we should be more particular as to the work; we leave it to their own consideration, and many of the women in the morning do not come till breakfast, but then of course if they are idle it is their own loss.

3862. Did I rightly understand you to say that when you first employed women it raised the wages of women in the neighbourhood 50 per cent.?—Since we employed the women their wages have advanced.

3863. Now that you have decreased your number very considerably, has that decrease in the number of women employed reduced the wages of those women which you still employ?—No, the women that we employ are paid by the piece. We do not intend to reduce their wages. But in the neighbourhood it will have the effect of making a greater supply of women for the mills and other occupations, and of course the women will not get as good wages as they did before.

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3864. Do you state that as a fact?—I know it is the fact, I can get women more easily than I could, and some of the women lately wanted us to advance their wages, and we told them that rather than advance their wages we would let them leave us, because there is no occasion for it. That is a sure sign that the tendency of wages is to be reduced owing to those circumstances.

3865. Mr. *Clark*.] What is the extreme heat of your stoves?—The extreme heat of the stoves is 100 degrees; I believe they are very seldom above 90; we wish to keep them at 90, but we are not always able to attain that.

3866. When you are obliged to work the extra time do you do so for a number of consecutive days, or is it merely a day now and then?—It is a day now and then; in fact we have to do it so seldom and rarely that it is only a chance day. We do not wish to do it, and unless we are at times obliged, we do not do it all, and it has only happened in a few instances the whole of this year.

3867. Have you noticed that working in the stoves is prejudicial to the health of the women who are obliged to attend them?—No, I have not; and I have made particular inquiry from gentlemen who have had the stoves and have had longer experience with stoves than I have, and from the similar testimony of the women in the stoves, I conclude the women are not liable to colds.

3868. Mr. *Dalgleish*.] Which do you consider the more healthy employment, the working on a bleach green, or working in a factory with the limited hours?—I would only ask any gentleman to stand at the door of our mill, and to see our workers walking out, the wretched haggard-looking creatures, and many of them with their poor lungs full of flax; and then go and stand at our stoves, or at the gate of our bleach works, and he would see the girls coming out with their hair as nicely curled and in as nice order, and their skins as clean and nice, looking as well as the ladies that one would see in our own circle. They are as different as can be. I certainly have looked very closely to their health, and, I believe, to their education also.

3869. Do you consider that the occupation in a bleach green is much more healthful than that in the factories?—There is no comparison whatever.

3870. Mr. *Kirk*.] At what age do you employ the boys and young persons in your establishment?—About 14. We would rather not have them under 14, and we require them to go to school and produce their testimonials from the masters that they can read and write; in fact they have to show up once a month to me their proficiency before they are admitted to the works. Of course there may be some exceptions. Sometimes a parent is very anxious to get his son in, and one or two may be smuggled in without my knowledge; and whenever I caught them, in that case they would be sent back to school. There is one disadvantage, however, that has occurred, and that is one on the part of our own people, which at first I did not contemplate, that persons whom we had refused employment to in our bleach works have gone to a neighbouring spinning mill and got employed there; and of course our object for the benefit of the people was done away with by their being admitted into the spinning mill.

3871. Therefore do you only employ those who can read and write?—With few exceptions, I only employ those who can read and write, and are above the age of 14.

3872. *Chairman*.] When a child is taken into a spinning mill, does not he come under the operation of the education clauses of the Factory Act?—They do not look to education in the mills at all.

3873. Is not there a public officer under the Education Act, whose duty it is to see that those clauses are enforced?—I hear nothing about the education, at all, of the children in the spinning mill, and therefore, in fact, I do not interfere with it, because it is under Government superintendence; but I look myself particularly to the bleach works, and there I do interfere.

3874. Are you aware that under the Act of Parliament a boy going into a spinning mill would be subjected by law to a certain education?—Yes; but Acts of Parliament are not so good as a person's inclination to make the workers happy and to do what is right.

3875. Lord *Naas*.] Do boys ever come to you from the spinning mills?—They have done so sometimes; they remain some time at the spinning mill, till they get large enough, as they suppose, to be admitted into our works, and then they come to our works.

3876. What is the state of education that you generally find them in?—That is a point upon which, except as regards our own people, I am not competent to speak. It is a thing I am not acquainted with.

3877. *Chairman*.]

3877. *Chairman.*] Do you require a certificate from those who have been with other people?—We merely get a discharge from their previous employer, saying that they have worked at the mill and are free of his employment.

3878. Did I rightly understand you to say that before you admitted any of the children of your own people into your works, you required a certificate that they can write and read?—Once a month the master of the school produces to me the writing and the cyphering of each boy that can read and write in the school, and they get to be first employed. They have to write a piece for me, therefore that comes under my own superintendence. I see the master of the scholars every month, and he has to give a report to me once a month. I get this copy written by the boys, and by the girls also, so that I know the state they are in; and I also know their ages; because at the bottom of every copy the date when the child was born is written.

3879. Have you made this proficiency in reading and writing a test of admission?—That is a good guide.

3880. When a child comes out of a spinning mill and applies to you for work, do you make a similar inquiry?—If he is the child of one of our own people, we immediately make that inquiry about him; if he is a stranger we take no notice; we have no power over him; our own people live in our own houses generally, and of course we have some control over them; and in all cases they will take advice. But we do not exercise any undue influence over them. Generally speaking the parents are desirous to have their children educated, if we talk to them and show them the advantage of it; and the very fact of my having a copy written by each of their sons once a month would be more likely to keep the boy at school six months than if I threatened the parent that I would turn him and all his family off, and it is by far the easiest way to do it, and the most satisfactory to me; and so it is done.

3881. Mr. *Crook.*] How many women do you employ at present?—From 68 to 70.

3882. How many boys?—I do not know the exact number, but I should say we have not a dozen; that would be the outside.

3883. How many of the women are employed in the stoves?—The greater part of the women are employed in the stoves.

3884. May I say that 60 are employed in the stoves?—You may say from 68 to 70 are employed in the stoves; and that there are five women in other parts of the works, say 75 altogether. My observations were entirely with reference to the women working in the stoves.

3885. How many of the boys are employed in the stoves?—Not any of them.

3886. How many of them are employed inside?—About three are employed inside.

3887. Did not you say that, as a rule, you do not allow the women to work more than ten hours a day?—No, we do not.

3888. You have had a general wish for many years to make that the limit of their employment, and it is the limit as a general rule?—As a rule, it is the limit.

3889. But occasionally, if in the beginning of a fortnight they do not work ten hours conveniently, you allow them to make longer hours at the end of the fortnight?—It does happen, perhaps once a month; it has only happened, I think, about four times this year, that I know of.

3890. They do not work very late at night on those occasions?—They do not.

3891. There is no working all night now for the women and children?—That is a thing we seldom or ever do; we never have a child at night, at all. Women occasionally work after hours; but we never have boys working at night.

3892. How many hours have you endeavoured to establish, as a regular course?—Every few years, when we had made such improvements that we thought we could give up the over-work; but we have found it a harder matter than we had thought.

3893. Have not you been a bleacher for 35 years?—Yes.

3894. You attempted to establish 10 hours at that work, I suppose?—I never succeeded in doing it.

3895. My inquiry is entirely confined to women and children; do you mean

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to say that women and children are never employed more than 10 hours a day, except on the occasions which you have mentioned, which have very rarely occurred?—Yes, that is the fact.

3896. And your impression has been, several times during the last few years, that it was quite possible to work 10 hours a day without difficulty?—My observation did not apply to the stoves at all. When I made that observation it altogether applied to the practical part of bleaching and carrying out the chemical processes, and not to the stoves.

3897. It did not apply to the work which the women and children are employed in?—No; they do not do that work at all. I have nothing to say to the chemical part of the work.

3898. Do the women and the young boys perform those operations?—No, not at all.

3899. They are performed by persons who are not within the object of this inquiry?—Just so.

3900. Have you never had an impression that it was possible to employ them regular hours?—I have had that impression as far as the women and children are concerned; so far as that is concerned, the women and children could be turned out at any hour.

3901. You say that you did contemplate making the hours uniform for those women and children on several occasions?—Yes.

3902. Therefore I believe several times you came to the conclusion that there was no practical difficulty there?—There is no practical difficulty with respect to the women and children.

3903. Now and then when that exception does occur it was done more for their own convenience and to make up their wages, than for yours?—Yes.

3904. Was there any commercial reason for that over-work?—There might be a commercial reason also, because if a load of goods were wanted to be shipped the next day, and those women in the stove were wanted to finish the work, that would be a commercial reason decidedly.

3905. What sort of apparatus do you heat those stoves with?—It is done with steam pipes.

3906. Are the steam pipes underneath?—The steam pipes are exposed along the floor.

3907. Does not the diminution in the number of women employed in your bleach works arise from the employment of machinery?—Yes.

3908. What sort of reports do you get every week from the schoolmaster with regard to the children in the mills?—I said nothing with respect to the mills at all, it is merely connected with the bleach works. I have no report from the spinning mill.

3909. Does the inspector ever visit the mill?—Decidedly.

3910. How many times a year?—He comes five or six times. I have not charge of the spinning mill. We have a manager who looks to that altogether. I take no charge whatever of the spinning mill, or of what the workpeople do there; therefore I cannot speak as to these minute facts.

3911. When you spoke before of the temperature of 90 to 100 degrees, is the Committee to understand that you do not conceive that it would be at all proper for those people to work outside as well as inside?—Yes, the stove women go regularly out. When there is hay making and when there is turnip hoeing many of them leave us and engage themselves in the country for two or three weeks at a time.

3912. Is that when you are slack of work?—Sometimes they go out when we would rather keep them.

3913. Do you conceive this temperature quite as wholesome as the external and ordinary atmosphere?—I think that where the constitution becomes accustomed to it, it does not produce any bad effect.

3914. Do you think that your wife and children could easily be accustomed to a temperature of 90 degrees?—There was a new stove established in Belfast some time ago near the house of a gentleman who came from a foreign climate, and the gentleman to whom they belonged said that he spent a great part of the day in it. I think that the constitution of women and the constitution of men are much alike. I think women would stand heat as well as men.

George M'Comb, called in; and Examined.

3915. *Chairman.*] WHOSE employment are you in?—That of Jonathan Richardson and Company.

3916. That is the firm of which the last witness is the head?—Yes.

3917. What is your occupation?—A practical bleacher.

3918. What are the hours of labour in your establishment?—The bell rings at half-past five in the morning, and at six in the evening.

3919. Is there any variation as to those hours, and the quantity of the work done in the winter or at other seasons of the year?—Yes, there is.

3920. Is not the larger proportion of the work in the bleach fields out-of-door work?—Yes; there is a large proportion of it out of doors; we have the cloth to expose outside to the weather.

3921. Can you state to the Committee about what number of men are working outside?—We have more or less; we are not limited to one particular number; sometimes we have more and sometimes less.

3922. About what is the amount?—We have on the average about 22 or 23, or thereabouts.

3923. Can those men and boys do any work in the winter time out of doors before daylight?—No, they cannot work before daylight in the winter time.

3924. What can they do out of doors during frost and snow?—They cannot work at the cloth outside at all; a very little frost stops the work.

3925. Are not there instances where a wet night that is succeeded by a slight frost in the morning, that has prevented you from going on?—Yes, in the spring.

3926. Is that a usual occurrence in the spring?—Sometimes it is; it has happened often in the spring.

3927. You saw the Bill that was brought into the House of Commons last year?—Yes.

3928. Did you sign a petition for it or against it?—Against it.

3929. How long have you been a practical bleacher?—I have been connected with the same establishment for the last 27 years.

3930. In your experience in the various situations that you have filled during those 27 years, is it your opinion that legislation is necessary or unnecessary?—I think it is unnecessary, to the best of my judgment.

3931. What are your principal objections to the Bill?—I think it would lessen the labouring man's pay in the first place.

3932. Are not your workpeople all paid by the piece?—They are, nearly all through the establishment; I may say all through.

3933. Do you think that if they had fewer hours' labour, they would get less wages?—Yes, they would.

3934. Is there any other injury that the passing of a Bill limiting the hours of meal times would inflict upon you?—Yes; it would interfere greatly with the carrying out of the business.

3935. Can you give the Committee a practical exemplification of how it would act?—Supposing the bell rang at half-past eight o'clock for us to quit for breakfast (that is the hour, or as near as possible to the hour we do quit), a parcel of cloths may be put into the boiling process; if we had to stop at that time, and that were to remain so till we came back from breakfast, it would have a great tendency to injure the goods; we should either overdo one part, or underdo the other; both could not be right.

3936. Half the cloth would get the whole of the alkali, and that which would not injure the whole would injure the half?—It might; we arrange our stuff for the whole as near as we can.

3937. Does it not follow that it is desirable that the cloth should be bleached as fast as possible?—Yes, and if we do remain, as we do often, when the bell rings, eight or ten minutes or sometimes a quarter of an hour before we get our job completed, we take that much longer after the bell rings again.

3938. Do the men get a few minutes longer at the other end of the time?—Yes.

3939. What effect would the stoppage that you have described have upon the after labours of the day?—In the way that linen bleaching is carried on, the one must depend upon the other; perhaps there is a quantity of machinery waiting for these goods, and if we left them there, an amount of machinery would stand

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idle until they came forward. We have things arranged in such a way that the one just depends upon the other; I am speaking of out-door work. The inside is dependent upon the outside; one process follows the other in rotation, and we must get on in the regular way, and it stops that process if we cannot get on in that way.

3940. Are we to understand that if this boiler was delayed being filled for the breakfast hour, it would not only run the risk of damaging the cloth, or that portion of the cloth left in the reive, but it would also prevent the boiling being finished at the regular hour, in order to suit the other processes of labour?—Yes; that is what I meant to say.

3941. Would not that retard the process?—Yes, it would; but it would not stop there; perhaps a parcel of goods has to go into another process, and you would keep the people waiting in another part after you. The linen bleaching is the same as many other things; sometimes they are working and sometimes they are not. There is many a time when for 10, 15, or 20 minutes they will be doing nothing.

3942. In fact they are waiting until the previous processes are ready for them?—Yes, exactly.

3943. Are you aware of any cause of complaint under the present system of working linen bleach fields, or whether the people are content?—I think they are very well contented; I do not hear any grumbling with our people; in anything that I am connected with I have not heard any complaint.

3944. Do the workmen remain in your bleachfields for a length of time?—Yes; we have had men working in the establishment that I am in for 18 and 19 years, and above that. Some hands have been there 24 or 25 years.

3945. Are they perfectly healthy?—Very much so.

3946. Are they as healthy as the persons employed in farm labour around them?—I think they are fully as much so.

3947. Is it within your knowledge that there was a very old man at those works lately when the third generation was in the employment?—Yes; he is in the same employment as I am.

3948. He had been in the employment of Mr. Richardson or his predecessors for three generations?—Yes.

3949. Is it your opinion, from your practical acquaintance with these facts, that the proposed limitation of hours will be in any way beneficial or useful to the workpeople themselves?—No. I candidly think that it would be injurious to the workpeople; I think it would much lessen their wages.

3950. Do you think that the proposed limitation of hours would have the effect of diminishing the wages?—I do.

3951. Are you aware that there are a number of workmen and boys employed in stoves?—Yes. There is a stove pretty convenient to me; I am not much in it, but of course I bleach the goods that go in there; and if I am passing by I am backwards and forwards in it every now and then.

3952. As a practical bleacher, do not you know that a supply of pure air is requisite in order to produce the required effect upon cambric handkerchiefs?—Yes; and when they have not pure air in bleaching cambric handkerchiefs for the London merchant it injures the colour, or at least it does not give them that lustre that they want without the pure air.

3953. Is it not the fact that pure air is necessary in order to crystalise the starch, and produce the desired effect?—Yes, it is.

3954. Have you any practical statement upon that subject that you can give the Committee?—Yes, I have. Any practical man as well as I, can say that he has known goods returned to him which had been dried with steam when there was not air to apply at the same time to cool them along with the steam. It has been said that they are not white enough in the colour of the starch, and they have turned yellow. I have had them returned to me, but I never have done anything with the exception of drying them over again. I get them dried in the air, and they have gone home all right many a time.

3955. Have you heard the evidence given by Mr. Richardson?—I have.

3956. Are you disposed to agree with it, or to disagree with any part of it?—To the best of my knowledge, there was not a word that is said that, so far as my knowledge goes, was not correct. I have been round there. The establishment was very small, and it has got to be a large one now; and I have seen the way in which the concern has been managed as well as my employer himself.

3957. *Chairman.*]

3957. *Chairman.*] In what capacity are you employed now?—As a bleacher.

3958. Are you employed as an overlooker or manager?—I bleach the goods.

3959. Have you people under you?—Yes.

3960. How many?—I have not taken the number exactly, but I could come pretty near it. There are from 70 to 80, or thereabouts.

3961. Are there many women and boys in that 70 or 80?—There are no women connected with my department. There are two or three boys.

3962. Did the answer that you gave about the rate of wages being diminished by legislative interference, apply to the people with whom you have most to do?—Yes, that is just what I speak of; they are paid by the piece, and I would just show the Committee how it is. In the morning the goods are in the boiling pots, they are in liquids, and if there were not men there before they start the concern it would be nearly time for the bell to ring before you got the concern started; we have to get the goods made ready and to start the machinery; we cannot go in and start; it is just the same in many other things; they have to get ready the goods and to prepare them for the machinery.

3963. Are the females employed in Messrs. Richardson & Co.'s establishment paid by the piece?—They are.

3964. Is not there a spinning manufactory belonging to the same firm?—It is not near me; it is not within my reach at all; it is in the county of Donegal.

3965. Are you at all conversant with the rate of wages in any spinning mills in your neighbourhood?—Yes, I am; Mr. Barber has a spinning mill, a very large one, near us; and there is another a little below us again.

3966. Do you know if the rate of wages in those mills has been reduced since the passing of the Ten Hours Act?—I am not much acquainted with the factories, but I believe the wages are regulated by piecework, so far as it goes.

3967. The wages being regulated by piecework, do you know whether, as a matter of fact, they have been reduced since the Factory Act came into operation?—I think that it has diminished them.

3968. Can you tell the Committee at all in what proportion they have been reduced?—I will not take upon me to speak upon that subject, for it is only from hearsay that I can speak; it is not from experience.

3969. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] Did not you say that you signed a petition against the Bill of last year?—Yes.

3970. Was it numerously signed by the workers in the establishment that you are connected with?—Yes, I think most of them signed it; all the people round my departments did so; and that is as far as I can speak to it.

3971. Was there any petition in favour of the Bill from the same work?—No, not that I am aware of.

3972. *Chairman.*] Did the women sign that petition?—I do not know; I am not connected with the women's department, except from just going in to look at the goods that I have bleached when I passed by; I have nothing to do with them; there is a man appointed for that.

3973. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] Would an interference with the employment of the women tend to lessen the wages of people connected with the bleaching establishment?—I do not know about that; I cannot say that at all.

3974. Supposing that the women are only permitted to work 10 hours a day, between six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock at night, would that have any effect in lessening the wages of the men employed in your establishment?—No; it does not concern them.

3975. *Chairman.*] When you signed that petition were you under the impression that the Bill was to regulate the hours of labour of the men in all your departments?—I was.

3976. Do you suppose that that was the general impression of those who signed the petition?—I do.

3977. If you had known at that time that the Bill only proposed to regulate the hours of labour of women and young children, should you then have signed the petition against the Bill?—Not so far as that was concerned; I would not have interfered with that; I could not take in hand to arrange the bleaching departments where I am employed, and to do it safely, if I were limited to hours; and if I were obliged to be limited to hours I would much rather resign my situation and try something else; I should not wish to remain in any man's employment to whom I might do damage to a great extent in that way; I would rather try some other way of living;

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living; it is very easy to damage from 1,000 *l.* to 10,000 *l.* worth of goods in the bleaching; they are a long time in the process.

3978. Mr. *Crook.*] Are you employed at the Lambeg bleach-works or at the Glenmore bleach-works?—At the Lambeg bleach-works.

3979. Are there any women employed out of doors in the fields?—Not connected with the bleaching.

3980. Are there any children?—There are boys.

3981. How many boys are employed under you?—There are seven, and their principal business is just for lifting the pins out of the grass that the men put into the cloth; that is what they are employed at; they have a little bag for them, and they lift the pins out of the grass, and they lay them down for the men to use in the pinning of the cloth.

3982. Are you aware during what hours the women are employed in the stoves at those works at Lambeg?—Yes, I am in the habit of seeing them because I am close to the works, and I see them going out and coming in as regularly as I see the other people employed about the works; although I am many times by, I do not go inside often.

3983. Are you aware that the women work later than six o'clock at night as a rule?—They do not.

3984. Have you any woman or child in your family employed in the works?—I have not at the stoves.

3985. Have you any wife or daughter working in these works?—No, I have neither wife nor daughter in the employment at all.

3986. Nor boys?—I have no boys working in the stoves; I have boys working indoors with myself.

3987. How many boys have you working there?—Two.

3988. Are they employed inside?—Yes, they are employed inside.

3989. What time do they give over at night?—They give over working in the green just at whatever time we shut up the works and give over.

3990. What sort of employment do they work at?—This one boy works at the cloth in the same way as I used to work.

3991. Does he work on the bleaching process?—Yes, he does.

3992. Has he anything to do with the boilers?—No, he has not.

3993. Are there any women that have to do with the boilers?—No.

3994. Have you anybody that the Ten Hours' Bill would affect employed about the boilers?—There are men to attend to the boilers.

3995. Did you think that this Bill limited the employment of men?—Yes, I did.

3996. Do you understand now that this Bill only affects women and children for the length of the day, and does not interfere with your hours?—Yes, I do.

3997. Do you think that the women are employed more than 10 hours a day in your establishment?—No, not on the average.

3998. Are they occasionally?—Yes; I have known it happen just a few times.

3999. Would not the Bill interfere with the business only to the extent of stopping the women and children from working late those few times during the last year?—I will not undertake to say anything about the stoves; I know nothing about anything connected with the stoves any further than I have stated.

4000. When you spoke of this Bill reducing wages, you did not mean that it would reduce women's wages?—I have nothing to do with the women.

4001. Mr. *Kirk.*] You stated that sometimes the women work after six o'clock; is it not also within your knowledge casually that they sometimes stop before six o'clock?—Yes, many a time.

4002. Do they stop as often before six as after?—Within this last 12 months a good deal oftener; I am well aware of that.

Mr. *Thomas O'Brien*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. O'Brien.*

4003. Mr. *Kirk.*] WILL you state your occupation, and by whom you are employed?—I am a practical bleacher and manager of the Glenmore bleach works, in the employ of Messrs. Richardson, Sons & Co.

4004. What number of persons are employed there under your direction; if you can, state the number of men, boys, and females?—There are 244 men, 34 boys, and 140 females, making 418 altogether.

4005. How

4005. How many of those work out of doors?—Of the men and boys there are 36 men and 10 boys who work out of doors, and 158 men and 24 boys who work in-doors; the rest are employed as mechanics and labourers.

4006. What is the nature of the work they are employed at?—Out of doors they are employed at spreading and lifting the cloth, and carting it to the houses; and in doors they are employed in filling the boilers that the cloth is boiled in, and attending to the boilers and filling the reives that the cloth goes through in the other processes.

4007. What extent of ground do you occupy with the spreading of linens at Glenmore?—We have about 140 acres of ground, of which 120 acres are almost constantly covered with cloth.

4008. Is not that dependent upon the weather?—It depends a good deal upon the weather.

4009. What extent of ground do you cover with linens daily?—The whole extent of that is covered and uncovered twice a week; that is to say, we uncover 40 acres every day, and cover it again with other cloth.

4010. Can you state in what way frost affects your operations?—When frost occurs, even for a day, it prevents our getting those 40 acres of cloth lifted, and it prevents us from spreading the cloth over also.

4011. Does that affect the work of those employed in the houses, or only those employed in the fields?—It affects those in the houses quite as much as those in the fields, because it renders them short of work.

4012. Is it not the fact that in the event of your being unable to spread any cloth on a particular day, you must either stop for a day altogether, or spread as much cloth as would cover 80 acres in the following day?—We do not stop for a day altogether unless there is a continued frost; we should work on reducing our work in the houses from day to day for a week, and then we should be obliged to stop, and if the frost and snow continue for two or three weeks we are stopped the whole time, except three or four days.

4013. Have you read the Bill proposed to the House last year?—I have not seen a copy of the Bill of last year, but I have read the previous Bill, and I understand that there is very little difference between the two.

4014. You are aware that section 21 provides for over-work out of doors, in cases of emergency, would that meet your objection?—No, it only provides for over-work out of doors "when rendered necessary for the preservation of the goods by reason of any unexpected change in the weather," whereas a change in the weather causes more additional in-door work than out-door work.

4015. Is there any other way in which the weather affects the carrying out of the bleaching operations?—Yes, a much more important interruption is caused by the weather when the spring-bleached cloth overtakes the winter-bleached cloth. Goods that we have commenced to bleach in November, December, January, and February require four or five weeks longer than those commenced in March and April (in fact the whole of the rest of the year), causing nearly a double quantity of goods to come forward for finishing in the months of April, May, and June.

4016. Can you tell us the quantity of goods that you had on hand part bleached on the 1st of November and the 30th of April last?—The quantity we had on hand part bleached on the 1st of November last, was 20,651 pieces, and on the 30th of April, 32,104 pieces; they had accumulated in consequence of the backwardness of the weather for bleaching.

4017. Did not that arise from the spring bleaching overtaking the winter bleaching?—Yes.

4018. Can you give the Committee any opinion as to how the Bill would affect the workers, considering the constant changes you mentioned in the quantity of goods on hand?—We should have to discharge a number of hands when work decreased, and take on others when it increased, our present system being, as far as possible, to keep sufficient hands for average work. The masters would employ fewer young persons and females, causing them to go elsewhere to seek other employment.

4019. Would the effect be to decrease the quantity of work?—Yes.

4020. Are you aware whether the workers are satisfied with their present system?—The workers, so far as I know, are perfectly satisfied; I believe they are a most contented class of workers in that part of the country.

4021. Do they desire this Bill?—Not that I know of.

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4022. Was there any agitation got up among them upon the subject?—No; I did not hear of any among our workers.

4023. Were you examined by Mr. Tremenheere?—No; I was not.

4024. Have you read his report?—I have read a good deal of it; I have read the part connected with bleaching linens in Ireland.

4025. Do you coincide with the suggestions which he makes upon the evidence, which he received in the Irish bleach works?—No, because he says that most of the bleachers seem to think that they can work under the Ten Hours Bill, and they have no objection to it. If they did not at the time state to him that they objected to it, their unanimous opposition to the Bill now, shows that they are all opposed to it. I do not know any instance of an employer wishing the Bill to be passed.

4026. As far as you know anything of the opinion of the bleachers, are they not mostly opposed to legislative interference?—Yes; they are decidedly so.

4027. I suppose they are not particularly fond of having inspectors coming in to look over their processes?—No; I think we could not carry out the provisions of the Bill satisfactorily if that were to be done. There is one clause as I understand, in the Bill, which provides that an account is to be kept in every case in which over-time is worked, and the reason of it; and that they should be able to prove that it was necessary that the over-time should be worked to save the goods. It would cause a great deal of additional trouble and expense in a large establishment like our's.

4028. In fact, it is your opinion that it would scarcely be practicable to carry it out?—I think not.

4029. Do you think that the Bill would not be workable?—I think that it could not be carried out; they could not work under inspection, so far as I know of the business.

4030. Do you know anything of the spinning mills?—No; I cannot say that I do. I have been through some, but all that I know of them is from hearsay.

4031. Are not you aware that in those mills which are subject to inspection, all the workpeople turn out together, whether they are adults or young people?—Yes.

4032. Will you give the Committee your opinion of the general health of the operative bleachers?—The health of the operative bleachers is better than that of any class that I am acquainted with; they are the healthiest and stoutest-looking men to be met with, although without the special care of an Act of Parliament in their youth; and you find the females and young persons are much healthier looking, and from the nature of their employment much cleaner and neater in their appearance than any other workers of a similar class.

4033. Do you apply that remark not only to those who work in the open air, but to those employed in the stoves?—I apply it also to those employed in the stoves.

4034. Taking the whole of the bleachers, those who work in the stoves, and those who work in doors and those who work out of doors, are they, as a class, more or less liable to be affected by epidemic diseases than other workers?—They are less liable to be affected; for upon two several occasions since I was first employed at Glenmore, the cholera was prevalent in the neighbourhood, and during both of those visitations of the cholera, we had not any who were connected with the bleach green or finishing affected by it. Two people died in our employment, but they were old men not connected with the bleaching; they were labourers.

4035. Are the girls employed in the stoves more liable than others under ordinary circumstances to pulmonary diseases and diseases of the chest?—I do not think they are; we have seldom any of them absent from ill-health.

4036. Are you much in the stoves, or about them yourself?—I am frequently in and out; there is a manager of the stoves who works under me.

4037. At about what temperature is the stove kept?—We keep it at 90 as near as possible, that is the greatest amount of temperature that I know of, and it is only on the lowest story that that is the case; on the second story the temperature is lower, and on the third story lower still, the average of the house would not be 85; we only keep a thermometer in the lowest story to regulate the temperature, and we let the others be as they will.

4038. Do you recollect any cases in which the workers in the stoves have fainted from excessive heat or fatigue?—Never.

4039. Could such a thing have happened without your knowing it?—No, it could not.

4040. Is there a stream of pure air admitted into the stoves in order to carry on your drying process?—Yes; under each of the windows there is a ventilator, and it is largely ventilated in the ceiling.

4041. Is not it the fact that you could not carry on the process of drying properly if there were not such a stream of pure air?—We could not produce the finish on the cloth that we require, nor the colour that we require.

4042. You would neither have the colour nor the appearance of finish, owing to the minute crystalization of the starch that you desired to have?—We should not.

4043. Is there anything else which you desire to state to the Committee?—I think that the work of the girls in the stoves is more dependent on the weather than the last witness stated, because when we are stopped for two or three weeks, that retards the finishing of the handkerchiefs, upon which they are exclusively engaged, and of course there is an accumulation of cloth to be finished. When the frost continues for two or three weeks, they are thrown off along with the rest of the workers, and when the work can be continued again they have to work occasionally extra hours to make up for the lost time. It is quite as much for their advantage as for ours that they should do so.

4044. When they have been stopped for two or three weeks, either from frost or snow, or from any other causes dependent upon weather, and over which you have no control, do they work extra time to bring it up?—They do.

4045. Do they work extra time upon any other occasion?—Very seldom.

4046. How often in the year?—I do not think it would amount to half a day in the week; and when we do work them overtime it is only for two additional hours, or two and a half hours (a quarter of a day), and they are paid for that overwork.

4047. Mr. *Davison.*] Do I understand you correctly to say that an interruption in any one department of the bleaching process interferes with the general business of the whole?—It does always.

4048. So that the effect it produces is alike in the bleach green as in the stoves?—Yes.

4049. If an interruption takes place in the stoves, does not it affect the ordinary process of bleaching in the fields?—No; I do not mean to say that the men who work in the earlier stages are interrupted; it interrupts the finishing process.

4050. Is the stove the last process?—Yes.

4051. Is the beetling any portion of the process?—Yes; the beetling is the last process applied to linen goods; the stoves are confined to the finishing of cambric handkerchiefs.

4052. The linens do not go to the stoves at all?—No; it is the cambric handkerchiefs only.

4053. Is beetling a severe process for the labourer?—It is severe work, with frequent intervals. They have severe work for half an hour, and then they have two or three hours of interval, in which they have only to watch the process going on.

4054. In what does that severity of work consist?—The operation of putting the linen on the beams and turning the beams is severe.

4055. How long will they be idle after the process is gone through till the time necessary for another shift?—The average is two hours, or two hours and a half.

4056. Then they are idle for two hours, until the next change takes place?—Yes.

4057. *Chairman.*] How long have you been in your present employment?—I have been six years at bleaching, and I have been about three and a half years in the actual management of the concern.

4058. Were you there when Mr. Tremenheere came to visit the work?—I was there when Mr. Tremenheere was, but he did not examine me.

4059. Can you tell us whether the figures he gives as to the number of people employed in the works at the time, are correct; he states that there were 165 males and 300 females employed at those works at that time?—It is nearly correct; we had 320 women at that time.

4060. At the present moment, I understand you to say, that there are only 140 women?—We have since that reduced the number to 140.

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4061. Can you tell the Committee what has caused that great change?—I should say that one cause was what Mr. Richardson stated; we have introduced machinery in finishing, which has reduced the number of workers, and we have made a reduction in the quantity of cambrics that we bleach also.

4062. Is that process likely to go on further?—The process of introducing machinery is likely to go on further.

4063. And is it likely to be brought up to the result that you will not employ any women?—Yes, I think the tendency will be to employ fewer women.

4064. Mr. *Davison.*] I asked you whether the interference of any one department of work does not necessarily interfere with all, and you said "Yes"?—It does necessarily interfere with all.

4065. Supposing that an interruption took place in the bleach field, must not that necessarily interfere with the work in the finishing department, if it is continued for some time?—Yes, it does.

4066. So that if a continuous frost took place for some time together it would necessarily interfere with the finishing, which is only done by women?—Yes, it would; I stated that in answer to the question.

4067. Then, of course, if it were reduced universally to 10 hours, or 10½ hours, you could not get the work done by these women, which would be necessary, in consequence of the frost or of the weather?—Yes, they could not work during that time.

4068. The process of bleaching could not be carried on in regular order?—No, it could not.

4069. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, in answer to a previous question, that an interference with the labour of the people employed in the stoves would not necessarily interfere with the labour of the people employed in the bleach grounds?—It might keep back work, but I do not say that it interferes with the bleaching, as it is a succeeding process, a finishing process.

4070. Are the women engaged in the bleach green or in the stoves?—Almost altogether in the stoves; the number I stated are all occupied in the stoves, except ten.

4071. Mr. *Crook.*] Are they very busy just now, or not very busy?—It is the usual average at this time of year.

4072. What are your hours for work?—Our hours of work are from six to half-past six, and to three o'clock on Saturday.

4073. Did you work any woman or child after half-past six last week?—Yes, we did. I think probably two evenings last week.

4074. Are you sure of that?—I am sure they worked one evening.

4075. What night was that?—I do not remember.

4076. Do you think they worked overtime the week before?—We have for the last few weeks worked overtime for two evenings in the week.

4077. Is that generally the practice about the spring, or have you been busy this year?—We have done our usual amount of business.

4078. Mr. Richardson stated in his evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, "The regular hours of work are from six to half-past six P.M., two hours off for meals, and we stop on Saturdays at three o'clock. These are the hours for the whole establishment." Do you think that is a fair statement?—Yes; those are our regular hours for the whole establishment.

4079. Did not you say that you go into the stoves occasionally?—Yes.

4080. The thermometer is on the bottom story?—We regulate the heat on the bottom story.

4081. What difference is there between the bottom story and the other ones?—I have hardly examined it; it is only about 10 degrees.

4082. You say that you keep it at 90 in the bottom rooms?—Yes.

4083. What temperature would the top room be when the bottom room was 90?—It would be 80, because the room is heated below with steam-pipes on the floor.

4084. Have you ever tried the heat of the top rooms when it was 90 below?—I cannot say accurately.

4085. What sort of floors are there in those stoves?—They are all wooden floors, and there are open spaces about 18 inches wide under each frame, and there is a close floor where the girls walk.

4086. Are those holes square?—They are 18 inches wide the whole length of the house.

4087. Are

4087. Are they under each frame?—They are under each frame.

4088. Are these frames made like tables?—They are not tables; the pieces are supported at each end only.

4089. Are they stretched from end to end?—Yes.

4090. Are the women employed in every story?—Yes.

4091. What sort of clothing do the women wear in those stoves?—They wear the usual amount of clothing.

4092. Do you think that they have as much clothing in this temperature as they have out of doors?—They have shawls and handkerchiefs, which they take off when they come to their work; they wear the usual amount that I have observed in their class.

4093. Do they wear shoes and stockings?—No.

4094. Do they wear flannel petticoats?—They may; I do not know that they do. I do not know what their under-clothing is.

4095. Are you satisfied that they wear under-clothing?—They do.

4096. Do they wear a dress or something over their shoulders?—Yes, they do invariably in the stoves in Ireland.

4097. You say, that if we passed a Bill to limit the hours of labour of women and children to 10½ hours a day, it would decrease the amount of work you do; as your workpeople work only 10 hours a day, will you inform the Committee how allowing them to work 10½ hours would reduce the amount of work you do?—When we are stopped in winter time, as we frequently are, they are out of employment, and we then let them work overtime to allow them to fetch up their time.

4098. How often do they work overtime?—Occasionally; not often.

4099. You occasionally work to half-past eight?—Yes.

4100. Would not the Bill only reduce your hours on those days?—It would cause us, when we were busy, to employ more hands.

4101. Would you reduce the wages?—We should have to discharge them again, when the pressure was over.

4102. You say that you formerly had 320 women, and now you have only 140; do you think that that reduction has had any effect in reducing their wages?—We have not reduced the wages in our works, but it has made their labour more plentiful.

4103. You say you cannot work under inspection; what is the difficulty, in your mind, about working under inspection?—It would be impossible to keep an account every evening, or every meal-time when we had to work 10 or 15 minutes over, and to prove that it was necessary for keeping the cloth safe.

4104. In what processes do you generally require them to work at meal-times?—I understand that the work would have to be stopped during the meal hours.

4105. How do you understand that?—From the Bill.

4106. *Chairman.*] Have you a copy of the Bill before you?—Yes.

4107. Can you refer to the clause of the Bill which contains that provision?—Clause 5 I understand to refer to that. In any spinning mills that I am acquainted with, the work is all stopped, the machinery all stops, and, as I understand, they would stop the bleach greens also.

4108. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you now understand that this Bill will not interfere with the meal hours or the time that the male adults work?—We have a number of young persons working along with the adults, and if they are obliged to stop their work, it will interfere with the general process of working.

4109. Have you more than a few instances of that kind?—It would occur frequently.

4110. What number out of the 140 women employed would it interfere with?—There are none of the women employed in those works at all; it is the young persons I refer to.

4111. You have 34 of them; how many of those are employed in the bleaching department?—We have 17 employed there, and 10 work in the fields.

4112. How many would be interfered with if this Bill passed?—It would interfere with the working of those 17.

4113. And how many of the women would it interfere with?—It would interfere with their work only at such times as we had been stopped and had an accumulation of work.

4114. Mr. *Kirk.*] Are those females and young persons that are employed relatives of the other persons employed?—They are generally.

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4115. If, therefore, they cease to be employed, or their time was lessened so as to lessen their earnings, would not that be an injury to them and their families?—It would; it would tend to break up and disperse the families; they would have to look for work in other employments, whereas there is abundance of work for them all together.

4116. Do you keep a mean average amount of workers without desiring to work them overtime unless compelled to do so by the change of the weather?—Yes; we keep an average amount of workers, and only work them overtime in cases of emergency.

4117. Is there another effect which would be likely to arise, that if the Government inspection was put upon the bleach works, there would be a tendency on the part of the employers of labour to cease to employ women and young persons altogether?—Certainly it would; the first thing we should do would be in some of the departments to avoid employing young persons altogether, and reduce them as much as possible in the others.

4118. Is not your belief that if such a Bill as is proposed pass, that would be nearly the ordinary rule in the Irish bleach greens?—I think it would.

4119. In fact it would lessen the employment?—Yes.

4120. In fact the employment would be confined to adults only?—As far as possible.

4121. Would not that be mainly because parties do not like to have their premises subject to Government inspection?—Yes.

4122. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You say that the system of inspection would tend to make them employ adults only?—Yes; I think that would be the tendency.

4123. Do not you think that it is well that adult men should perform the work?—No; there is a great deal of the work which may be performed by young persons.

4124. Do not you think that it is preferable that men should do it?—There must be young persons employed to give them a knowledge of the business.

4125. Then must you not employ young persons whether this Bill passes or no?—To a certain extent we must employ young persons for that purpose.

4126. As a general rule is not it better that adult persons should perform the work than young persons?—I think not.

4127. Would you think it better that adult persons should not do the work, and that young persons should do it?—It is my view that young persons can do the work.

4128. You say that the tendency of inspection will be to make you throw young persons out of work, and take adults?—I think it will be.

4129. What is the reason that you do not do that now?—Because we have light work at which young persons can work.

4130. If the Bill passed would you prefer taking the adult persons to do the light work that young persons now do?—We would prefer that to being under inspection.

4131. In point of fact would not you be obliged to give higher wages?—No.

4132. Would you get the adult persons to do the work that young persons do now without any difficulty?—I think we could get adult persons to do the work.

4133. Why do not you do it?—We take young persons because we have light work that they can do, and it is less expensive.

4134. Would not you have to give more for that work?—It would not increase the wages of adult persons.

4135. Why is it then more expensive?—Because the wages of young persons are less than of adult persons.

4136. Would not the wages of adult persons be more?—It would not increase wages; adult persons would be employed.

4137. Do you say that inspection would make you suddenly take adult persons in place of the young persons you employ?—We could not do it suddenly, we must do it gradually.

4138. Do you mean you would begin to take first one or two in, and then a month or two afterwards another or two adult person to displace young persons?—It is probable that would be the process, but I cannot tell.

4139. What is the objection to such a thing?—Most of the young persons that we have employed are the sons of men working in the place; they wish their sons employed, and it is an advantage to them to have their earnings; that is one reason

reason why we frequently employ young persons when we would not do so otherwise, because their parents wish to have them.

4140. You must have other persons standing by that are not employed, and that are ready to be employed, in the way of adults to replace those young persons; have you those persons waiting by?—We have not persons waiting by.

4141. Even supposing the inspectors were to be appointed, would not you have some difficulty in replacing the young persons that you would discharge, and finding adult persons ready to your hand?—We should have difficulty in it.

4142. Would it not, in point of fact, be more expensive to you; would not you have to pay adult persons more wages?—It would be more expensive to us.

4143. Do you know in all the factory districts where the Ten Hours Bill has been in operation, the effect has been to cause the very young persons in the greater number of instances to be displaced by older hands?—I am not aware of it.

4144. Have you ever read the Factory Inspectors' reports where they show the benefits of that change?—I have not read them.

4145. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would you have any difficulty in doing away with the attendance of boys altogether in bleach fields by the application of belts and other machinery?—There would be less difficulty in that than in any other branch of the employment.

4146. Would there be anything but a temporary difficulty in taking adult labourers; could not you get plenty from the neighbouring farms?—There would be only a temporary difficulty, as the labourers can be taught in a short time.

4147. In two or three months?—Yes.

4148. Are you aware at the present time of any body of persons standing by, waiting for employment and watching others at work?—I am not aware of any.

4149. Mr. *Wise.*] Have you any girls in your establishment, and at what age are they first employed?—We do not take them under 12 years of age as a general rule.

4150. Do you think there might be any limit as to the age of employment?—I do not think it is desirable to employ young persons under 12 years of age.

4151. Do you think it injures their health to employ them under 12 years of age?—No, I do not.

4152. What is the character of the hand work of which we have spoken?—It is handling cloth in the different processes; pieces are hanked up into hanks.

4153. Do they lift heavy weights?—There are not heavy weights to lift.

4154. Does the character of the work which you give them tend to educate them as it were for their future employment?—It does.

4155. Does it render them better workmen for another department?—Yes.

4156. Are the boys generally healthy?—Yes, they are all healthy.

4157. Are they employed in any of the hot rooms?—They are not employed in the hot places.

4158. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You said that you could find agricultural labourers, and teach them the business in two months?—Yes, I did.

4159. Would not that tend to raise the wages of the agricultural labourers that you left behind?—I suppose that would be the tendency.

4160. Mr. *Clark.*] Have you known any instances where children have been compelled to work those long hours against the wish of their parents?—No, I have not.

4161. When they work long hours, is it for their own accommodation?—Yes, altogether; and it is a rule with us not to ask any female to work over-hours unless she wishes to do so. At the regular quitting time at half-past six, we permit all who wish to go home to do so.

4162. As far as you have had an opportunity of judging, do you consider that the health of the boys is in the least injured by those long hours?—Not in the least; they seldom work long hours.

4163. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] Supposing that you employed adult labour only in your bleach works, and that the children were entirely displaced, would there be a good many of the labourers' children not employed in your establishment?—Yes, a good many of them.

4164. Supposing the children were no longer employed in your establishment, is not it certain that the parents would leave to go to the district where their

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children would be employed?—I do not think they would; I think the tendency would be for the children to seek employment in the spinning mills.

4165. Would not it be their interest to go to another district?—The boys would go; the parents would not leave us to go there.

4166. Supposing adult females were not employed, would not they go to seek employment elsewhere?—I do not think adult male labour could be substituted at present for the labour of females.

4167. Did not you say that in the event of the Bill passing, you would be inclined to employ adult labourers in the place of the labour of females?—We should be inclined to employ adult labour instead of the labour of young persons.

4168. The employment of female labour being under the operation of this Bill, would not you employ male labour instead?—What I stated was, that it was my opinion that there would be a tendency, if the Bill passes, to dispense with the labour of young persons.

4169. Mr. *Kirk.*] Supposing that machinery were introduced so as to do away with female labour altogether in the stoves, would there be any want of female labour in the employment of sewed muslins in the cottages of people round?—No; there is an abundance of labour.

4170. There is abundance of labour on sewed muslins at present?—Yes.

4171. Are they kept supplied with materials?—Yes, as far as I know.

John Johnson Kelso, Esq., M.D., called in; and Examined.

J. J. Kelso, Esq. M. D.

4172. Mr. *Kirk.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Lisburn.

4173. You are connected with the dispensary there, are you not?—Yes, I am.

4174. Have you had ample opportunities of knowing the state of the work-people employed in the neighbourhood of Lisburn in the bleach works, about which evidence has been given before the Committee?—Yes, I have.

4175. In reference to health; what is the effect on young persons from 18 years of age and under, and upon females who work in the stoves with a temperature varying from 90 to 100 degrees?—I should say not prejudicial under certain conditions.

4176. Will you state what those conditions are?—The first condition in my mind is one that is of general application; it is that a person on entering upon the employment should be in a proper state of health. I suppose it is unnecessary to state what I understand by a proper state of health. If a person eats well and sleeps well, is not unduly susceptible of fatigue, that is a condition that is personal to the party who is employed; the other condition has reference to the temperature of the stoves, and also the state of ventilation of the stoves. I think that the parties who are engaged should have liberty occasionally to cool themselves, and to get a little drink of water to recruit themselves.

4177. Under such circumstances would 60 hours of work a week in a temperature of that kind affect the health?—I should think decidedly not.

4178. Under similar circumstances might an extra two or three hours a day or a week, occasionally, or for days together, prove injurious?—I should think not, provided the party were properly nourished, and received proper sustenance. I should think half an hour a day would make no material difference.

4179. Are there any diseases or affections that particularly attach to stove occupations, either in young females, or in females more advanced in life?—I am not aware of any particular diseases of that sort.

4180. Do you think that their being in an erect position is more prejudicial to health than if they were stooping?—I should think not. I should think rather the reverse.

4181. Is it within your knowledge that the persons employed at those stoves are more or less liable than persons differently employed, to bronchitis or other inflammatory affections of the chest?—I should think on the whole perhaps that they are not so liable to that as other operative classes are.

4182. Comparing them with workers in factories, or workers out of doors, or even domestic females at home, which is the more healthy?—I should think they would not be so liable to these diseases as either of those classes. Either of those classes are more liable to them than the stove workers.

4183. I presume you would understand that they wear additional clothing when they leave the room where they have been working?—Yes; and that they take proper

proper care of themselves when they go out; that is a matter of course. And when I make my comparison I would limit my observations to the parties who work. For instance, there are a considerable number of females who stay at home weaving and other things. Now, compared with them, I should think the stove operations are not so prejudicial to health, nor are the persons employed in them so unhealthy or so susceptible to diseases as those females.

4184. Are there any local diseases or affections to which such employment gives especial prominence?—I am not aware of any particular ones.

4185. Are the people working at them subject to swelling of the feet or ankles more particularly than others?—I should think they are not so subject to that as persons who weave in their own houses are. The females, who weave in their own houses, are more susceptible to swelled ankles and ulceration of the legs, as far as my observation goes, than stove workers are.

4186. Comparing the general appearance of the females who work in the stoves, are they more or less healthy, in fact, than the people employed in spinning and other factories?—I should say most decidedly that they are of a more healthy appearance, judging from their complexions, and altogether that they are much more healthy, especially than those who work in spinning factories.

4187. Or than the cotton or woollen weavers, of whom there is a large number?—Yes; a good number employed round Lisburn.

4188. Is there any difference as to their liability to fever or other diseases?—I should think upon the whole that they are scarcely so liable as either of those classes to which you have referred. I speak generally; they are scarcely so susceptible as the other classes are.

4189. I think you are the medical attendant of the Lambeg Bleach Fields?—Yes, I am.

4190. Is there any specific disease to which the workers either in the bleaching department or the stoves are particularly liable?—None whatever, that I am aware of; none that I can point to.

4191. In fact, are they not rather more free from attacks of fever than other workpeople?—I think they are rather better off, and more especially than those female workers in their own houses.

4192. How can you account for such comparative immunity from diseases?—I should think that, upon the whole, stove labour is a healthy labour, and the proof of it is in the result. The atmosphere that they breathe in those stoves is perfectly pure, and the atmosphere that the persons working in their own houses breathe is not pure, because the ventilation is not so good; the cabins they live in are not good; the floor is generally open, and altogether the atmosphere there becomes so much more deleterious to health than the stove atmosphere would be.

4193. Then the general purport of your evidence is, that you are disposed to contend that the climate in the stoves is decidedly healthy?—I should say so, decidedly.

4194. Are you aware whether many accidents have occurred in connexion with the employment?—There are some few; but very few; and those are not of a serious nature.

4195. Have you remarked whether young persons, either male or female, under 11, are ever employed about Lisburn in the stoves and other labour?—I have not observed; they are generally from 12 and 13 upwards.

4196. Have you any idea of the state of education of the boys and girls when they are first taken into employment?—With regard to the persons who are taken into the employment of Mr. Richardson, they are generally tolerably well educated. The reason is this, that Mr. Richardson has very properly and very creditably to himself established a school, and he takes great care that the children at his works shall be properly educated; that is not the case, however, in Lisburn itself; there, I have no doubt, the different clergymen of the town are very anxious that the young persons should be educated, and we have one or two national schools in Lisburn. But, notwithstanding all their desire to get the children to come out, there is an indifference on the part of the parent; they would rather keep them at home, for the purpose of turning their labour to some account, in sewing and embroidering muslin; they wish to turn them to account, even when they are five or six years old, and they will not allow them to go to school, although the cost of schooling is quite nominal.

4197. Are you the surgeon of the Lisburn Dispensary?—I am surgeon of the Knocknadown Dispensary.

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4198. Can you form any opinion as to the number of persons in connexion with the bleach works about Lisburn to whom you have afforded relief within the last two years?—I have no doubt but that the medical attendant of the dispensary may, as he held the post during the last two years. In 1854, the number of stove workers who got relief under the dispensary system was 24, and of mill workers 104.

4199. Are not there more people employed in the stoves than in the mills about Lisburn?—No, I think not.

4200. Have you any idea of the comparative numbers?—I could not precisely say; I say about one, perhaps, to three; the stove workers being about one, and the mill workers about three.

4201. What is the proportion of medical relief afforded to each?—The total number who got relief was 1,240; but of course it is to be observed that the dispensary district takes in the agricultural country; there were 24 stove workers and 104 mill workers, persons employed about the bleach works, and 1,200 persons who got relief round the dispensary district. In 1855 there were 23 stove workers, 102 mill workers, and 1,102 persons who got relief all over the dispensary district. In 1856 there were 22 stove workers, 102 mill workers, and 1,344 persons who got relief all over the district.

4202. From the dispensary book of that district are you satisfied that stove working is more healthy than mill working?—No doubt of it.

4203. *Chairman.*] In those figures have you taken into consideration the proportion of people employed in the different trades?—They could not be prepared accurately, because, under the present system, it would be impossible, but the number of persons who apply for relief immediately round where the dispensary is situated is considerably larger. The population is large, and not only that, but, on account of the facility of application, there are more persons working in the locality of the dispensary than those in the districts more remote.

4204. Could you give the Committee any information as to the number of people employed in the mills and those employed in stoves?—There are about one to three; one stove worker to three persons who are employed at what I call mill work, including bleach works, spinning mills, and finishing works also. It is merely an approximate answer; I could not say positively.

4205. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you think these extremes of labour, to the extent of 10 hours a day, are not detrimental to a healthy person?—I should say not.

4206. Would you consider that the mass of those women and young persons that seek employment are almost invariably healthy?—Of course, one could not say invariably. Health is a relative term; some would be more healthy, and others less so.

4207. Are you aware that the bulk of the women and children have to seek employment in the district out of their own houses?—Yes.

4208. What proportion of the bulk of the women and children would you say are in good health?—That would depend altogether upon what you assign as good health. The answer to that question might strike different medical men differently; but what I would define to be a person in good health would be a person who could eat well and sleep well, and who was considered capable of doing a certain amount of work without being unduly fatigued in consequence.

4209. Could you give an estimate whether one-half or one-third of these classes could be said to eat and drink well?—There are certainly some delicate persons who seek employment, but in that case they give way soon.

4210. Is not there among this class of workpeople a great proportion that are delicate?—Looking at the result, they must be, at least as far as my observation goes, comparatively few; because the number of applications for medical relief in connexion with persons who are employed in the stove labour is comparatively much less, I should decidedly say than those with reference to any other similar employment attended with physical labour in the community.

4211. Have you ever been in one of those stoves more than once?—Yes, I have.

4212. Have you ever been in the top rooms of the stove?—I have been in all the compartments of the stove.

4213. Have you seen a considerable number of women working there?—I have.

4214. Do you think they can be at work over those apertures when the heat comes up without detriment to their health?—I do.

4215. Did

4215. Did you observe what amount of clothing they wore?—I certainly have lately. They have some covering that they put on when they come out. They do not immediately sit over the apertures; the aperture is under the place where the cloth is stretched, and the persons walk through the intervening space on the floors, so that they are not in the draft; but they are so placed that the ventilation tells favourably rather than the reverse upon them.

4216. Are you aware what the temperature usually is in the rooms?—The usual temperature, as far as I can ascertain, is from 90 to 100 degrees; it rarely comes up to a 100.

4217. Have you been in the mills in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

4218. Are they flax mills?—Yes.

4219. Are you aware what temperature they have in the mills?—I am not sure; I never looked at the thermometer; but it is not so high at the mills as at the stove; it is not so necessary, I should say.

4220. Did you observe whether there was any provision for ventilation in the mills?—Yes; unless there were ventilation, their health would be doubly deteriorated; but I should say that the ventilation in the spinning mills is not so effectual as in the stoves; the means adopted for ventilation are not on so good a principle as in the stoves.

4221. What is the difference?—The ventilation in connexion with the stove is that the ventilation is beneath the window, and the current of air gets entrance at the floor, or almost at the floor, and it gets up. Whereas in the spinning mills the ventilation is at the top of the window, and for that reason the good effects of the ventilation are not so decided.

4222. Are you aware that a vast amount of money has been spent on the House of Commons in ventilating it?—Yes, I have understood so.

4223. Have you heard as to what direction the changes in that ventilation have taken lately?—Lately I have understood that they have succeeded, but I thought the system at first was not effectual.

4224. Do you know what that system was?—I cannot say. I think the air was admitted at the bottom. But it struck me that the principle was faulty.

4225. Are you aware how it used to be ventilated, whether the air was admitted at the roof or at the ground?—I cannot recollect.

4226. Have you any idea how the ventilation is now conducted?—I think there were some alterations made at first; the system was not satisfactory, but I think latterly there has been a change.

4227. Will you have the kindness to tell me whether you are aware what the nature of that change is?—I am not.

4228. Have you been in any foreign mill lately?—No, I have not.

4229. Have you been in a linen or cotton mill this year?—Not this year.

4230. Can you say you were in a mill last year?—I was.

4231. Whose mill was that?—It was Mr. Richardson's.

4232. Is that a flax mill?—Yes.

4233. Has he any means of ventilating the mill?—Yes, he has; but it is upon the principle to which I object, for the ventilator is at the top of the mill, and not at the bottom.

4234. Do you mean to say that the window opens at the top?—Yes. There are also ventilators in some of the panes of glass.

4235. Is there perforated glass?—Yes.

4236. What sized openings are the windows in the flax mill?—The windows are made to slide down—that is one of the means; then there are ventilators besides at the top of the windows.

4237. Then the windows will slide down, so as to open half the window?—Yes.

4238. Is not that an effectual means of ventilating, if you are able to use it?—Precisely so.

4239. Have you been in a mill in which you found the windows closed?—I do not recollect; I cannot answer that question precisely; but if the windows are closed, they have a ventilator to act as a sort of substitute.

4240. May I understand, that it is an hypothesis of yours that the ventilation in the mills is not so complete as in these stoves?—It is not in my view of what ventilation should be.

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4241. Will you give your reasons for that opinion?—In so far as the stove is concerned, I should say practically the result is in favour of the plan that is adopted.

4242. Have you been in the neighbourhood of Belfast lately?—I have not been to visit any of the mills.

4243. Did not I understand you to speak cautiously as to the time that you think the work of the women might be prolonged exceeding ten hours a-day; you say they might work half-an-hour or an hour?—I should say perhaps an hour.

4244. You have not a very strong feeling?—Of course health is a relative term, and what I might consider to be delicate, another medical man might not consider so.

4245. You were asked if persons might not work without detriment to health for 12 or 14 hours a-day several days in succession?—That is an unusual time at present.

4246. Have you any daughters?—None.

4247. Have you any wife?—I have.

4248. Would you like your wife to work 14 hours a day?—That question would scarcely apply, because a female should grow up to it, if she is to be employed in physical labour, and be gradually trained to it; but if you put a delicate female, who has not been so trained to the labour, the probability is that the thing would end injuriously; but generally the class of persons who do work in mills are put to work at a younger time of life, and they are habituated to it, and therefore it does not tell so injuriously upon them.

4249. You are aware that there are a considerable number of delicate girls and boys who have to do all this kind of labour; do not you think that if they work 12, 13, or 14 hours a day, it well tell upon their health?—If a person is delicate, of course it would; but if the person has tolerably average health, it would not decidedly.

4250. Mr. *Kirk*.] Are you not aware that the ordinary ventilation of the flax-spinning mills is by means of a pane in the centre of the window, which works on a swivel, and that nine-tenths of all the window frames are of iron, and stationary?—Yes. I have endeavoured to explain it; either a ventilator is put in, or else perhaps a pane is taken out.

4251. And are not the window sashes of iron, and stationary?—Yes.

4252. Mr. *Crook*.] Did not you say just now that the windows slide down?—In some mills they do, and in others they do not.

4253. Do you remember any mills where they slide down?—I think it is the case at Mr. Robert Stewart's mill; it strikes me so, but I will not say positively that it is so.

4254. Do you remember whether Mr. Richardson's mills are so ventilated?—I think the ventilation there is fixed; it is by apertures and ventilators.

4255. Do you remember how his windows are constructed?—I think they are made of iron, and stationary; but I cannot speak positively about it.

4256. Supposing those windows are stationary, and the construction of the windows was altered so as to admit any amount of ventilation, do not you think that would improve the ventilation of the room?—It would improve the ventilation, but it would never make the ventilation so good as the admission of air at the bottom of a window; because as the air gets heated it tends to rise, and it carries with it, of course, the impurities that are connected with it.

4257. As far as you can judge, would it be difficult to correct the ventilation of the mills?—I should think not.

John Leeper, Esq., M.D., called in; and Examined.

J. Leeper, Esq. M. D.

4258. *Chairman*.] WHERE do you reside?—At Keady, in the county of Armagh.

4259. How long have you been in general medical practice?—Twenty-five years.

4260. Do you hold any public appointments, and how long have you held them?—I am medical officer of the Keady Dispensary, and certifying surgeon to the Darkley and New Holland Spinning Factories, and I have been medical attendant to the constabulary for 12 years and upwards.

4261. In reference to the health of the operatives, what is your opinion from those official situations which you hold of the effect of the employment in bleach works on young persons?—I think the employment is very healthful.

4262. As

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4262. As compared with factory labour, which do you think is the more healthful?—I think the work in bleach works is much more healthful than the factory work.

4263. Could you make any comparison?—I think that six hours a day in a factory is more severe than 10 hours in bleach works.

4264. Would you give the Committee your reasons for that opinion?—In bleach works a great deal of the work is in the open air, and what is executed in the house is in very airy, well-ventilated apartments. On the contrary, in the spinning factories in my district, the atmosphere is not so pure; it is loaded with moisture and loaded with dust.

4265. As compared with agricultural labour of the persons employed in agriculture, and those employed in bleach works, which are the more healthful?—If they are employed in bleach works in the open air, they are quite as healthy as those employed in open air agricultural labour.

4266. Why is that?—They are both much of the same character, and their labour is less severe; they both work in the open air. But the bleachers who work in the house are even more healthful than those who are employed in agricultural labour.

4267. Are they more liable to pulmonary disease than those employed in fields?—I think quite the reverse. The labourers in the fields are more exposed to the vicissitudes of weather, and they often have not the opportunity of changing their clothes, and they are more subject I believe to rheumatic and pulmonary diseases than the other.

4268. Are you aware that it is the practice in the neighbourhood of Keady, all down the river, to employ boys between 14 and 18 years of age to attend the beetling engines at night?—I am.

4269. What is your opinion, as a medical man, of the effect upon the health of the boys of being employed all night upon the beetling engines?—I think it is not in the slightest degree injurious to them.

4270. Do not they sleep all day and work all night?—Yes.

4271. And you say so after an experience of 12 or 13 years?—I do.

4272. Are you aware at all of the nature of the employment of attending beetling engines?—I am quite well aware of it.

4273. Can you give the Committee any account of it?—The boys are not employed more than half their time. The work is very light and easy. During the intervals of changing the beams, or changing the cloth upon the beams, they have the opportunity of resting, and often lay down upon the bench, or retire to a little house outside the mill; the work is very light, and the labour is easy.

4274. Have you ever had any conversation with them as to whether they were satisfied and anxious to get that class of labour?—Very often.

4275. What was the result of that conversation?—I have known persons advanced in life who have been employed in that capacity as boys, and they have spoken of that work as light, cheerful, and easy work.

4276. Are you aware of any diseases to which persons employed in bleach works are especially liable?—I am not.

4277. Is the duration of life shortened in those districts by such employment?—Certainly not.

4278. Are accidents frequent in bleach works in consequence of unfenced machinery?—No; they are very infrequent, and any accidents I have witnessed have been entirely owing to the gross negligence of the parties themselves. I have known three or four.

4279. You are certifying surgeon of the spinning factories?—Yes.

4280. At what age are young persons taken into work at those factories?—They are not taken in under 13.

4281. Are you aware at what age they are taken in, in the bleach works, in that neighbourhood?—Not under 14; I believe that is the youngest period at which they take them in.

4282. What is the state of education among the children that are employed in bleach works?—I think the education is very much improved among them since the introduction of the national system of education; they are almost all educated to a certain point.

4283. Has there been any injurious results arising from the introduction of sewed muslins as regards the education of the female population?—I think there has. I have made it a point, when persons have been pressing for work in the

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factories, before giving a certificate to inquire whether they can read and write; I have done this for years, more from curiosity than anything else; and I have found that a great number of the female children lately have not been educated; their mothers have employed them from six years old to 16 at sewed muslin work, which prevented them from going to school, and sometimes they tried to give them an hour's instruction at night; but although the district is well supplied with schools, the girls are not instructed.

4284. Is there any other observation that you wish to make to the Committee?—I am not aware of any.

4285. *Chairman.*] I think I understood you to say that the boys who work at the beetling engines at night do not work in the day?—They do not work during the day; they are in bed all day.

4286. Supposing from any necessity they worked all day and half the night; should you say that their hours of labour were excessive?—I should; and I should think it would be injurious to their health.

4287. Mr. *Crook.*] You say that you are certifying surgeon of this neighbourhood. Is the mill of Mr. Richardson in your district?—No; I live at Keady, in the county of Armagh.

4288. In your district you say there are no children employed under 13 years of age?—No.

4289. Then of course there are none required to go to school, under the Factory Act?—No; they are not required to be sent to school by the owners of the factories.

4290. Will you tell the Committee your impression of the requirements of the Factory Act as to children being educated?—I understand the Act to be this, that if they are employed in factories before they reach 13, from 10 to 13 the owners of the factory are obliged to give them a certain number of hours, to allow them to be educated in the day.

4291. Are you conversant with the requirements of the Factory Act?—No; I cannot say I am, except so far as my own department goes.

4292. How many mills have you under your inspection?—I have two.

4293. How frequently do you visit them?—I am required to visit them once a fortnight.

4294. Do you know the amount of ventilation in them?—Yes.

4295. Can you describe to the Committee the construction of the windows, and the means of ventilation at those mills?—They are different; one has been lately built. It is a large mill, and I think the ventilation has been attended to in it as well as it can be.

4296. Do you think that the preparation for ventilation is spacious?—Yes; the windows are very large, and they open the windows all round on purpose to allow the heated air to go out.

4297. Have you seen the House of Commons?—I have seen the House of Commons, but I am not at all conversant with the mode of ventilation of the House of Commons.

4298. Is the provision for ventilation which you have described only applied to one mill?—Yes; in the other mill it is not so perfect.

4299. Are you aware whether there is any artificial heat used in mills in weather like this?—Yes, there is in the spinning factories.

4300. Are you sure that they have steam on a day like this?—Yes, when they spin with warm water; when the thread goes through the water.

4301. Is the quantity of water used so great as to affect the temperature of the rooms much?—Yes; I have been in the rooms even in summer, and I find that they are very warm.

4302. Has it come under your observation that the temperature of the mills is precisely the same as the atmosphere?—No.

4303. Are you aware that the heat in mills is principally introduced for the purpose of drying out the moisture?—I do not at all think that that was so in spinning factories. I thought it was almost entirely for heating the water through which the yarn passed; I am speaking of flax spinning.

4304. Have you not seen any stoves employed for the purpose of heating the rooms that the men and boys have been at work in?—That is not so in my district; those mills are so different. In those mills, as far as my observation goes, it is not so.

4305. Have

4305. Have you been in any of those stoves?—No; they are not used in my district.

4306. You do not know whether there is any moisture in those stoves or not?—I do not.

4307. As you have not been in these stoves, and do not know anything about them, what is the ground upon which you say that six hours in a factory is worse than 10 in a bleach mill?—In saying that, I was comparing the work of a flax spinning factory with the work in the bleach works; I had no reference to stoves when I made that statement.

4308. Are we to understand that when you said that six hours in a spinning factory is worse than 10 hours in bleach works, you did not know anything about the work done in stoves?—I do not.

4309. *Chairman.*] Your observation applies to bleach works where there are no stoves?—Yes.

4310. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you refer to the out-door work?—To the out-door work, and the work in the lapping rooms, and that in the beetling engines.

4311. Are those places in which no women or children are employed?—There are boys, but no women or children employed, using the term "children" for those under 14 years of age; I mean by children, those that are under 14; but if they are above 14, I look upon them as boys.

4312. Are not you aware that the Ten Hours Factory Bill affects women and boys up to the age of 18?—I am not aware of it; I know that persons are employed in the spinning factory, and they do not require a certificate from me if they are over 16 years of age.

4313. Are you not conversant with the clause in the Factory Act which limits the labour of young men and women to 10 hours a day?—I am acquainted with the operation of the Factory Act with reference smply to the spinning factories over which I am set.

4314. Do you know the clause that limits the hours of labour in factories?—I cannot say; all I know is this, that any person over 16 years of age does not require a certificate of his age.

4315. Are you then conversant with the nature of the limitation clause of the Factory Act as regards women and children?—No.

4316. Mr. *Kirk.*] Speaking of the moisture in the flax-spinning rooms, is it not true that all the thread must pass through boiling water?—There are some places where they spin the yarn without passing through boiling water; that is what is called dry spinning.

4317. Does not that apply to tow spinning?—Perhaps so.

4318. Does not all the flax that is spun near Keady pass through boiling water?—It does.

4319. Is there not placed at the top of each spinning frame a long trough, 18 or 20 feet long, filled with hot water?—Yes.

4320. The bobbin stands upright, and the thread passes down through the water before it is spun?—Yes.

4321. Has not the keeping this constantly boiling by steam pipes the effect of producing a very moist atmosphere in the spinning room?—It has.

4322. And this you consider injurious to health, to a certain extent?—I do; not solely in consequence of the moisture, but because the atmosphere is loaded much with the dust of the spinning factory; I have had ten cases applying to the dispensary for relief from the spinning factory for one that I have had from the bleach works.

4323. Mr. *Crook.*] What are the dimensions of those hot-water troughs which you have just described?—I think the spinning frames in the spinning factories of my district are mostly double; and at each side of the frame there is this trough that I referred to; it is about nine inches deep; there is about nine inches of water in it; and it extends the whole length of the frame.

4324. What is the breadth of it?—It is narrow at the bottom, and broad at the top; it seems to me to be about nine inches broad at the top.

4325. Are you aware of the number of processes in the spinning factory in which water is used?—No.

4326. Are you aware that it is used in any process except the last?—I think not; not till it comes to the last.

4327. Do you consider that the moist thread will give off dust?—No.

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4328. Where does the dust arise from in those rooms?—It arises from the cans, out of the threads passing into the spinning frames.

4329. How fast does it produce dust; can you see it move as it goes out of the can?—Yes, I can see it move.

4330. Do you think it comes with such a velocity as to cause dust?—I do; I see that the room has dust in it.

John Bell, Esq., Jun., called in; and Examined.

J. Bell, Esq., Jun.

4331. Mr. *Kirk.*] WHAT is your residence?—Belfast.

4332. Are you acquainted with flax-spinning?—I am tolerably well acquainted with it.

4333. What is your trade?—It is rather difficult to describe my occupation; I am connected with the linen trade.

4334. Are not you connected with the trade of bleaching, and getting linens bleached, and disposing of them in this and other markets?—We are, generally.

4335. Are you and your partners largely concerned in the linen and diaper trade?—We are; and we are flax spinners as well.

4336. Can you give the Committee any idea of the manner in which flax is generally spun into yarn in the north of Ireland by your firm, and how the rooms in which it is spun are ventilated?—With regard to the mechanical operation of spinning flax, I am not very competent to speak, because it is some years since I was engaged in that particular branch of our business. But in reference to ventilation, I think my attention was called to the remark of Dr. Kelso, with reference to letting down the windows. Now I suppose that there are not three concerns in the whole of Ireland, and very few in England and Scotland that I do not know, and I must say that I never saw a window yet let down. In a flax mill the ventilation is upon the same principle as in this room, by a pane generally in the centre of the window, which turns on a swivel. But in all the new mills, in nine cases out of ten, the windows are all stationary; I have seen them with a narrow moveable pane at the top of the windows, but I do not think it is any improvement upon the pane in the centre.

4337. Can there be any reason for this peculiar mode of ventilation?—I am not aware of any, except that it facilitates the opening and shutting, and letting down and putting up the windows.

4338. Are you aware that there is hot water used in order to spin flax into yarn?—When it is wet flax spinning, that must be so of course.

4339. Is not that the great bulk of the spinning?—In Ireland I do not think there are more than 2,000 dry spindles altogether.

4340. The great bulk of it is wet spinning?—Yes, in Ireland.

4341. If the air were admitted below, would not it have a tendency to cool the water in the troughs where you introduce the steam to heat?—It would, no doubt.

4342. Is not that the reason why the ventilation is above?—Any damp atmosphere when heated will naturally ascend; consequently that will take it off better than if the ventilation were below.

4343. Do not you lap a considerable quantity of cloth which you get finished?—We do.

4344. Are you not a practical bleacher yourself?—No.

4345. You employ others to bleach the cloths for you?—Yes.

4346. What do you think would be the practical effect of limiting the hours in the lapping rooms?—As far as I can judge of the trade, I do not see how you could limit the hours in the lapping rooms, or make a law that you could not work in the lapping rooms except at certain hours, for this reason, the trade depends so much upon the demand in both the home and the foreign trade at certain times of the year, that it is absolutely necessary, in order to execute the orders at a certain time, that we should work to get the goods off in the time they are required.

4347. Then are the Committee to understand that the lapping room is a warehouse?—It is, no doubt.

4348. Is not the ordinary process in Irish lapping rooms for the proprietor to have the stock finished, and not made up?—Yes, that is the ordinary practice. So far as I am personally concerned (our principal business is in the damask trade), we keep

keep continuously making up as the goods come in from the green; but a considerable portion of our stock is kept unlapped, and I know that people who are not so much in that trade as we are, keep all their goods unlapped.

4349. Then the effect of that would be that if they are without orders, they would be without work?—No doubt it would.

4350. Are you obliged to wait in the lapping-rooms somewhat in the same manner as a shopkeeper waits for his customers?—Just so, because the buyers from the different markets will have the goods made up in different ways.

4351. Do you have the goods for one market made up in one way, and for another market in another way?—Yes, that is the case.

4352. Should you think it very hard that the lapping-rooms should come under a restrictive law, and the warehouses be left without a restrictive law?—I do not see any cause for legislation with regard to the lapping-rooms at all, because I think there is no grievance to be redressed; there is no over-work except there may be very extraordinary occasions.

4353. Is not the tendency in the north of Ireland to shorten the hours of labour both in the employed and the employers?—It is in our own warehouse; we only open at nine o'clock in the morning, and shut at five in the evening the whole year round; but it is the case there, as with everything else, that when we have a press of orders we are obliged to work after-hours.

4354. What time do you work to when you come to after-hours?—We never have worked after half-past nine.

4355. But you occasionally work as late as nine or half-past?—Not, perhaps, more than twice a year.

4356. You do it occasionally?—We do it occasionally.

4357. Would it be one of your objections to legislation that these lapping-rooms would become subject to inspection?—I should not like to have a stranger coming into the lapping-room, although he might be a Government officer, who could have no object in taking information from us; I should not like to have our work open to the inspector at all times whenever he thought proper.

4358. *Chairman.*] You were asked if you could limit the hours in your lapping-rooms, and you replied, that you thought it would be impossible. Supposing you were asked whether you could limit the hours that the women and children are engaged in those lapping-rooms, what would be your answer to that question?—I think I should answer that in the lapping-rooms a great portion of the people employed are women and children; I do not speak so much about the women, but there are young men that work for particular purposes in the lapping-rooms.

4359. Can you tell us what in your own establishments is the proportion of women and young persons to male adults?—They are half and half.

4360. What other processes do you carry on besides lapping?—Nothing whatever, except the mere operation of lapping and ornamenting goods. It is the lightest work that any person can possibly be engaged in, and it is the mere manipulation of the linen.

4361. You have sometimes worked on to nine or half-past nine at night; in those cases do you begin at the time you have mentioned, namely, nine in the morning?—We begin at nine in the morning; they work till five without leaving off, and then they have an hour and a half, and then they work from half-past six till half-past nine if we have extra work.

4362. Have you ever begun before that time?—Never.

4363. Have you ever heard complaints among the women and children engaged in your establishment?—No, I have not, because the occupation is such a healthy one; it is a mere matter of folding over the cloth, which involves no bodily labour whatever.

4364. Mr. *Crook.*] How many women and children do you employ in lapping?—We have five at work altogether.

4365. And you only work from 9 o'clock to 5?—Yes.

4366. Do you know the limitation of the hours of labour under the Factory Act?—Yes.

4367. Could you describe it to the Committee?—The Factory Act limits the hours of labour to 60 hours a week.

4368. Does it limit the hours of labour in the day?—It is 10 and a half hours a day.

4369. To what class does that apply?—It applies to all women and young people under 18.

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4370. Would a Bill of that kind affect the lapping business of your concern on the days when you work under pressure?—I say that there are occasions when you are obliged to work, but I think they occur about twice in the year; they are the seasons when the trade commences to be brisk.

4371. How long do those seasons last?—It depends altogether on the number of orders we have.

4372. Do they last a week or a month?—A month would probably be the very outside of it.

4373. Do you begin at 9 o'clock in the morning?—Yes.

4374. Under those circumstances you work these women and children to nine at night, allowing them how much for meals?—They go away for an hour and a half.

4375. If this Bill passed, what would be the effect upon those women and children?—As far as we are concerned, if the Bill passed, we should commence work at whatever time the Bill allowed us to do, and work them until we were obliged to quit in the evening; we could get far more work according to this 60 hours' Bill than we now work, and, at the same time, I do not think there is any feeling of any necessity of legislation.

4376. How many women and children do you employ as flax-spinners?—I cannot tell you that.

4377. Have you some women in those works?—A great many; I suppose from 150 to 200.

4378. Are you conversant with the process of spinning?—Tolerably so.

4379. Can you tell the Committee how many of the processes require the thread to pass through hot water?—One, simply, I think.

4380. Do you have the preparation in one room and the spinning in another, or are they mixed together?—The preparation is separate from the spinning.

4381. In that room you do not use hot water?—No.

4382. Are there not more rooms in which there is not hot water than there are in which there is hot water?—No, it is the reverse; because we have only one preparation-room and two spinning-rooms.

4383. Have you been to see any new mills that have windows in which there are divisions?—I said I had seen some of them where there was a small pane at the top which swung; but I never saw any where half of the window was let down, as described by Dr. Kelso.

4384. Have you ever seen any new mills in which one-fourth of the window was suspended in the centre, and remained on a swivel?—I could not say positively; I am prepared to assert that in nine-tenths of the new mills I have seen in the neighbourhood of Belfast within the last two years the centre window has been ventilated by a pane in the centre, as I have described.

William Mackinley, called in; and Examined.

W. Mackinley.

4385. Mr. *Kirk.*] WHAT is your place of residence?—Lambeg.

4386. What is the name of your occupation?—I am a working bleacher.

4387. What is the nature of your occupation?—To attend to the bleaching.

4388. Do you spread the cloth in the fields?—No; I chiefly attend to the house.

4389. Is your work inside the house?—Yes.

4390. Is your labour continuous on all the occasions when the bleach-works are employed?—I am generally employed for a time so far as my work is concerned.

4391. How many hours do you work?—My time is not limited; I work piecework.

4392. When do you begin to work?—At six o'clock in the morning.

4393. At what time do you generally leave off?—Whenever my work is finished.

4394. Would that be some time in the afternoon, sometimes at six o'clock, and sometimes later?—Exactly so; and if it is before dinner I am at liberty.

4395. Can you go away at three o'clock, or at six o'clock, or at any other time you please?—Yes, without any one asking me any questions.

4396. What time do you take for meals?—An hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner.

4397. Have

4397. Have you signed a petition either for or against the Bill restricting the hours of labour in bleach works?—I signed a petition against the Bill.

4398. Did you read the principal clauses of it?—When it was first stated, as it was in the newspapers, I thought that it would be dangerous to the working classes. I took it into consideration at the time, and I thought that it would be a great injury to the workers.

4399. Do you still think so?—I do.

4400. Can you state your reason for thinking so?—It is a simple reason; it is as much as to say that if I do a little labour I am to receive a little wages.

4401. Is there any complaint against the present system of working in the bleach works?—Not that I know of.

4402. Do you think, that, as you are paid by the piece, the limitation of the hours of labour would be beneficial to you or to your fellow-workers?—I think it would be very injurious to me and to my fellow-workers.

4403. Do you think that your occupation is a healthy one?—I think it is very healthy.

4404. How long have you been employed in this work?—I joined the establishment as a bleacher in 1811.

4405. Have you good health yourself?—I never was ill in my life with the exception of one disease I had.

4406. From your knowledge of bleaching, do you think that the limitation of the hours could be carried out without seriously impeding the several operations through which linens have to go?—I think it could not.

4407. *Chairman.*] Will you tell the Committee what you thought the Bill would do for you and your fellow-workmen?—So far as we are concerned the bleaching system goes on rather by piecework. From the time it is put on till it is bleached, it goes on upon the same system. It goes from the bleaching to the washing mills and kives, and so on upon the same system; it is all piecework. Every squad does their portion of work, and our master or any other master pays them. Therefore, I think that limiting the hours of employment would not allow that liberty if we worked ten hours a day. Daily wages are very low in Ireland; they are only 14*d.* a day. Now, during those ten hours I should like to earn twice 14*d.*, and my master would pay it me with great satisfaction.

4408. Were you under the impression that you would be prevented by the Bill from working more than 10 hours a day?—My impression is, that if I only received 14*d.* for ten hours' work, I should be much diminished in my pay.

4409. Do you tell the Committee that you petitioned against the Bill, because you thought that it would interfere with your hours of labour?—Yes, I do.

4410. Did you think that the Bill was intended to prevent your working more than 10 hours a day?—I do not know how I could answer that question; a very few hours would satisfy me if I thought my master would pay me for them.

4411. You tell us that you petitioned against the Bill, because you thought that it would do you some harm?—Yes.

4412. And that that harm was preventing you from working more than 10 hours a day?—Yes, if it was necessary to work more.

4413. Did you think that the Bill would not allow you to work more than 10 hours a day?—I did.

4414. If you were told that the Bill would not prevent you from working more than 10 hours a day, what would you say about it?—My opinion is, that there should be no interference between my master and me, as long as my master allows me to earn as much money as I can in whatever hours suit me.

4415. Is the Committee to understand that as long as the Bill did not interfere between you and your master, you would not care to petition against it?—No, I would not have cared to petition against it in that case.

4416. You spoke of a squad of working people; are there in your squad any women and children?—There are some boys.

4417. Supposing the Bill prevented them from working more than 10 hours a day, would you wish to petition against the Bill upon that ground?—Upon the average of our times of labour we never do work 10 hours a day; if we do we are paid more for our labour; but that is only occasionally.

4418. Supposing the Bill only interfered with the labour of women and children, would you then object to it?—No; as for that I would not take any part in it; I only speak for myself.

4419. You told us that you objected to the Bill because you thought that it

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was intended to prevent your working more than 10 hours a day?—I say that I object to the Bill, because I think it would lessen our pay.

4420. Why do you think that it would lessen your pay?—I have a portion of work to go through; suppose that yesterday I had a small day's work, and I had done by dinner time, then there was a small day's pay; the following day I have a great deal of work to do, and if my pay was small yesterday I should be able to pull up to-day by working a few hours extra.

4421. If the Bill did not interfere with the labour of men, but only interfered with the labour of women and children, would you still think that it would reduce your pay?—I would say, that as we are working piecework, if we were to go out to work by the day we should get less wages.

4422. Would you be apprehensive that if the Bill passed you would no longer be paid by the piece, but that you would be paid by the day?—That is just what I am afraid of; I do not want to be paid by the day; I could not live by it.

4423. If this Bill did not propose to put daywork in the place of piecework, would you object to it?—Yes; I do not want to have any interference at all. I have been a bleacher for a long while, and from my youth upwards the system of bleaching has gone on chiefly by piecework. The manager would say to me, "Go and do so much work, and I will give you so much pay;" I have gone on upon that same principle throughout my whole course of working, and I should not like to serve 10 hours for 14 *d.*

4424. Are the Committee to understand that you do not wish piecework to be replaced by daily work?—I do not; I wish to continue my present way of gaining money.

4425. Mr. *Cook.*] Whose employment are you in?—In that of Mr. Richardson, of Glenmore.

4426. What part of the work is it that you do?—I work at part of the machinery, called the "rub-boards."

4427. Can you go on with your work without any women or children being engaged at the same time?—I can. Children would be of no use in my department. They are of no use in any part of the bleach works that I know of, except for gathering pins.

4428. Supposing that the Bill did not interfere with you in any way, would you still be inclined to oppose it?—If it would just let me alone I would let it alone.

4429. Do you think that 10 hours is not too long for a delicate woman to work?—I am not acquainted with a woman's abilities.

4430. Is your wife working in the bleach works?—No; I have a better way of providing for her; I work for her myself.

4431. Have you a daughter?—Yes.

4432. Does she work in the bleach works?—I reared all my family in the bleach-works.

4433. Do you consider that it is good for their health?—I have never heard any complaint from any of them.

4434. Did they ever work more than 10 hours a day?—I do not know that they did; whatever way the work went they just went with it. I have some of my sons working with myself, and some not.

4435. You do not know that they have worked longer than 10 hours a day?—They just do the same as myself. As I have mentioned, when the work is done I go away, if it was done in an hour; and I stay till such time as the work may require.

4436. Do you think that the workpeople would work from six till half-past six in your establishment?—Not as a rule; that is probably the time in the Bill, but I want not to be obliged by the Bill.

4437. It is stated in Mr. Tremenheere's Report, "We rarely work over hours;" is that correct?—I suspect it is right.

4438. Do you know that there are boys working in the field taking up pegs?—Yes; I have no great knowledge of them; I am not concerned with them.

4439. Have you ever seen boys in the fields?—In all portions of the bleach works I have seen boys.

4440. Would this statement of Mr. Richardson's be correct: "Nearly all the boys are employed in taking up the pegs; we rarely work from half-past six in the fields?"—I cannot answer that; I am not acquainted with it.

4441. Do you not know what times they work in the fields?—I do not; but I have a son who works upon the field; he is a grown man; I cannot tell you of course

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course how long they work, but they work as long as they can, for the more they do the more they get for it; I do not ever attend to the hours.

4442. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you prefer piecework to day labour?—I do; I would much rather have piecework; by that means I am able to give my master work for his money. As long as he pays me extra money I am willing to do extra work.

4443. Supposing from the fluctuating nature of employment in the bleach-works your master was only able to find employment for one half the day to-day, would not you find it a great restriction that whereas he could give you a day and a half's work to-morrow, you should only be allowed to work ten hours for him?—If I could get any other employment he would not long be my master, in that case.

4444. Does not that form a substantial objection to the limitation of the hours of labour?—It would be of serious consequence to the working classes; it is a very great thing for a poor working man, who has a healthy boy, if he is a faithful man, to get his child in to the work, for it will increase his own wages, by which he supports his family, and he dresses them gaily and feeds them well, and that fits them for their work.

4445. Is it not a thing that often occurs that persons in your position are anxious to get their sons employed when they come up to be 14 or 15 years of age?—It was my case.

4446. Have you sons in the same employment with yourself?—Yes; I reared all my children in the bleach-works.

4447. At what age did you seek for employment for your boys?—I do not recollect that; but so far as my idea goes, I say that in the bleach-works they are put to work that they are fit for. If they are fit for light work they go to what they are fit for, and as they get older they must just seek other things; unless they come up from their youth they are no bleachers. I heard a witness here saying that people might come from the fields and be made bleachers, I deny that; it is like any other portion of the trade; they must learn it as a trade, or else they are no bleachers; otherwise they may learn one portion of it, but they know nothing about it.

4448. You spoke of squads; do you mean by that a number of workmen who take a particular thing to do?—Yes, they must perform a certain portion of the work.

4449. Does not that squad include boys as well as men?—Yes, it does in some portions of the work; it is not a general rule.

4450. If there were a limitation of the hours of labour, would not those boys be obliged to leave off the moment the clock struck six?—Yes, they would.

4451. Do you object to the Bill on that ground?—I do; because the men must be idle when the boys stop.

Mr. *John Henchy,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. J. Henchy.

4452. Mr. *Kirk.*] WHERE is your place of residence?—Seymour Hill.

4453. By whom are you employed?—Messrs. John and William Charley.

4454. Will you state the nature of your occupation?—I am examiner of white and brown linens, and I have worked in nearly every department of the bleach-works and the lapping rooms.

4455. What are your ordinary hours of labour?—From six in the morning, and sometimes half-past six to six in the evening.

4456. What hours do you go to your meals?—At eight o'clock for breakfast; I come back at nine; one o'clock for dinner, and come back at two.

4457. That is two hours?—Yes.

4458. Have you signed a petition against the Bleaching Works Bill?—I have.

4459. Of course you have read the principal clauses of it?—Yes.

4460. Are you still of opinion that legislative interference is unnecessary?—I am.

4461. What are your principal objections to the Bill?—My principal objections are these: I believe that if the Bill becomes law, the employers will be compelled to discharge all under the age of ten, and that would cause them to go elsewhere to seek employment; and I do not know of any other employment in that neighbourhood so remunerative as bleaching, or the other employments about bleach

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works and lapping rooms, &c.; that is one of my reasons. Another is, that fixed hours in the lapping rooms would be very injurious to employers and employed; for instance, if an order came, as I have seen them come on some occasions, for goods to be immediately made up and shipped off by to-morrow or to-day, perhaps a few minutes after the prescribed hours might enable them to make up the goods and send them off; whereas if you had to quit at eight o'clock, as regards the work done by the boys, the men would have to be idle, because they assist the men, and one could not work without the other.

4462. Does not the man hold the pieces of cloth while the boy ties the string?—Yes.

4463. In fact, the men and boys work together?—Yes, almost invariably; you could not work the men without the boys, and I know very well the workpeople themselves are very much against the Bill, knowing, or at least thinking, that it might cause a separation of families, which would be very heartrending.

4464. Are you aware that there is an anxiety on the part of the workpeople themselves, who are employed in the different works, to have their families employed also?—Yes.

4465. Have you ever known or heard of any person being forced by his employer to come in to work?— Never; it is all the other side of the question; they solicit to get them in.

4466. In other departments of the works besides the lapping rooms, what would be the effect of these fixed hours?—I think it would be injurious to the property to a great extent; for instance, if we were drawing goods out of what is called the dip, and we had only a portion of them drawn out at the time appointed for the people to quit, the other portion would have to remain till the next morning; the consequence would be that the goods would be damaged when taken out again, or if they were drawing them out, and had a portion of them out, if the steep was exposed to the air, as it is in many places, and they had to quit at that time, the action of the air would be likely to damage them. I have known that, in some instances, to occur from accident or negligence on the part of the workmen.

4467. Therefore it is an operation that requires to be finished before you quit it? Yes, or else serious loss would ensue.

4468. At what age are boys usually employed in Messrs. Charley's works?—They are generally taken in at about 13 or 14 years of age.

4469. What is the state of their education?—It is pretty fair; most of them can read and write.

4470. Is the occupation in which most of those boys are employed in the lapping-rooms within doors a healthy one?—It is very healthy; I was in a lapping-room seven years myself, and I enjoyed perfect health, and all the others with me during that time, because we could go in and out whenever we liked; we generally went out if we chose; we were not closely looked after.

4471. Do you know what the young boys in Messrs. Charley's bleach-works are occupied in?—The principal portion of the boys are occupied in what is called fieldwork.

4472. What are they doing in the field?—Lifting and spreading the linens, which is a very healthy occupation, especially at this season of the year.

4473. Could they begin at six o'clock in the winter?—No; they could come at six o'clock in the winter.

4474. Could they work till six o'clock in the winter evenings?—No, they could not.

4475. Would there not be nearly one-fourth of the year when they could not work from six to six?—Yes; they begin then at eight o'clock in the morning, and leave at four.

4476. Are not the boys paid by the piece?—Yes.

4477. And they are of course subject to fluctuations as to the quantity of time they work daily?—Yes, owing to circumstances.

4478. One day they work more, and another less?—Yes.

4479. Do the Messrs. Charley employ any boys at their beetling engines?—I am almost certain that they have only one under 18 years of age.

4480. Do they turn their beetling frame, that is the roller upon which the cloth is fixed, by hand or by machinery?—They turn it by machinery mostly; before the matter came to be talked about it was done by boys; but they got belts put up, which caused them to dispense with the boys.

4481. In one instance they have displaced the labour of those boys by machinery?—Yes.

4482. Will they not go on to displace the labour of the boys by machinery?—I believe there would be a tendency to it, for necessity is called the mother of invention, and there would be a necessity for their doing so.

4483. Do you know any cause of complaint under the present system of working the bleach works?—I know of none.

4484. Would a limitation of the hours prove in any way prejudicial or useful to the workers?—I believe it would not.

4485. Do you think that the limited hours proposed would enable the workmen to earn more or less than they now do?—I think they would earn less.

4486. From your knowledge of bleaching, do you think the limited hours could be carried out without seriously impeding the operations?—I believe it could not be carried out without seriously impeding the operations to a very great extent.

4487. I think that your occupation is to look over the brown cloths as they are received from the factors or weavers?—It is.

4488. That is your present occupation?—That is my present occupation; I have followed almost every occupation in the bleach works.

4489. How do you first begin?—I began in the lowest occupation in the bleach works, namely, gathering pins.

4490. Had your father been employed there?—Yes, my father has for 34 years been employed by Messrs. Charley, and is in their employ at the present time.

4491. Is he well?—He is very well, and healthy, and active, and he is about as severe a job as there is in hand.

4492. Are the people generally speaking satisfied with the present state of things?—They are all very well satisfied, that is the general feeling existing among the employed.

4493. Would 10 minutes or half an hour beyond the regular hours be very necessary in the lapping rooms where boys are employed?—It certainly would in many cases be very useful; for instance, in the lapping room, if there is a box of goods that had been ornamented to-day, and were ready for packing, and the men had to start off with it at a certain hour to the boat to be shipped, and if 10 minutes after the hour mentioned in the Bill would complete the job, but it could not be completed without the 10 minutes, that box could not be shipped, and the next day the time of shipment would be passed, which would be a serious annoyance to the parties concerned, to the parties who ordered the goods, and the parties who sent them away; I think it would be the same annoyance as it would be to any other merchant, if he were obliged to shut his door at a certain hour.

4494. Does an Irish lapping room go on a very different process from the warehouse?—I can see no difference.

4495. Have you had any conversation with Messrs. Charley's workmen about the effect of the Bill?—I have.

4496. Did you explain to them how the Act would operate as regards the women and children?—I did.

4497. Did the parents think better of it then?—They thought no better of it; I have explained it, as far as I could, to every individual I came in contact with.

4498. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you say that you are in the employ of Messrs. Charley?—Yes.

4499. How long have you been in work there?—Eighteen years.

4500. Will this statement in Mr. Tremenheere's report be correct, that they do not employ any women in their works?—There are no women employed in the works, except in what is called the brown rooms, adjoining the lapping department; but I believe that at the time the statement was given it was done by Mr. Edward Charley, and he thought that the Bill merely applied to bleach works; his brother, the principal, was not at home, and I think a mistake must have occurred; we have four women employed in working the brown linens.

4501. Do you think that statement is incorrect?—Yes, I do.

4502. Mr. Charley says that you have only a few boys working at your works, is that correct now?—No.

4703. How many boys are there?—We have about 16 boys, but three above 18, although we call them boys; there are six of them in the lapping rooms, and 10 in the bleach works.

Mr. *J. Henchy.*

30 June 1857.

4504. Is this statement correct: "They have generally done their work by four o'clock"?—This was quite correct.

4505. If this Bill is sanctioned, to what extent will it affect your works?—If we require to work a few minutes after six o'clock, it would be a very serious annoyance to the establishment if it could not be done.

4506. What work would it stop?—It would not stop the people so much as it would injure the interests of the employers; the people are well disposed to serve them by working a few minutes over time, although it does not often occur; and now in the lapping rooms I know that if they work a few minutes after the hour; for instance, if it was one o'clock when they have to quit, and they work to two or half-past two, they get the remainder of the day to amuse themselves; so that they would rather have things in their present state than have any alteration.

4507. You were asked with regard to the custom of the employment of boys in the fields in the winter time; do you suppose that the Bill would compel them to be employed to six o'clock in the winter?—No, I do not suppose it would compel them.

4508. Would it have any effect upon the employment of boys in winter?—I think they would be discharged in order to steer free of the inspection.

4509. You say they cannot work in winter at six o'clock?—Not in the field.

4510. In what way does the Bill affect the boys?—It would not affect them in the winter time, but there are other seasons besides the winter.

4511. Would this Bill make them begin to work at six?—I do not think it could make them begin at six in winter, but it would in the summer time.

4512. As regards the winter, do you admit that this Bill would not affect the working people out of doors at six o'clock in the morning?—Yes, I do.

4513. You said it would affect them in the summer time; in what way would it affect them in the summer time?—They would have to begin at six in the morning in the summer time, and work till six in the evening.

4514. Do you understand the Factory Act as compelling the people to work?—No; but I understand that if it were the law, the employers, in order to keep themselves safe, would compel them to work, if they employed them in their service. If they were restricted they would have to get as much as they could out of the workmen.

4515. Do you mean to give the Committee to understand that the masters would be compelled to find work, whether there was work or not?—No.

4516. How would this Act affect the work in your place in the summer?—As I said already, I believe they would have to commence work at six in the morning, at least the employers would expect them to do so; whereas, at the present time, sometimes they are left to their own free will, almost according to the state of the business; but I take it upon the whole as being more favourable to the employed than the employer; they have more time given to them for amusements, if they work over hours, and they highly appreciate and value it, they wish always to have it.

4517. Do you think the Bill would affect the hours of labour in the summer?—I think it would, because they would have to quit at a certain time for dinner, according to the Act; whereas at the present time they can work if they choose at the dinner hour, and get away to other business they have at home, and that is a thing I know they would not like.

4518. Does it strike you that it would affect them in any other way?—In many other ways.

4519. Are there any women or boys required to draw the goods out of the steep?—There are men required.

4520. But not women or boys?—Occasionally there are boys.

4521. Is this piecework?—Yes.

4522. Do boys do their work by the piece?—Yes.

4523. Of your knowledge, have you known a boy under 18 years of age to undertake this process?—Yes, I have.

4524. Are you aware that among the factories where labour is regulated by law, the wages of the operatives have risen invariably?—I do not know much about spinning factories.

4525. Have you ever been in a factory?—I never was in a factory but once in my life, and I was glad to get out of it.

4526. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is not there one circumstance connected with the employment

ment of boys, which should be mentioned; that they desire sometimes to begin early in the morning, and leave early in the afternoon, in order that they may go about some occupation of their own, either business or pleasure?—Yes; that is the case almost daily.

4527. Do not they dislike the restrictions of the factory law, and desire to have freedom?—Yes; they like freedom.

4528. Is not it true that the employed are quite upon a par with the employers in the way of independence?—They are, indeed. The balance is rather in favour of the employed.

4529. Is not the feeling, that the employed are quite as independent as the employers a help to them?—It is; in fact, they dare not tyrannise over them.

4530. Mr. *Crook.*] How would the Factory Act interfere with regard to holidays. Is it your impression that it would prevent their having holidays?—I believe it would prevent them from having half holidays.

4531. How will it?—I believe the Bill orders that they shall begin at six in the morning, and work till six at night; at least, it allows them liberty to do so. According to the present state of things, if boys choose, in the summer season, they can begin before six in the morning, and can work the breakfast hour and the dinner hour, and be done at half-past three o'clock. If the Factory Act was law I believe they could not do that; that is my impression, that they would miss that time which they get; they now get much time to themselves by working overtime.

4532. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do not you know that these young persons do this for a very proper purpose, namely, to work at their gardens, or at their farms, or anything of that kind?—Yes, they do that in some cases.

4533. In the spring season, is not it ordinarily the course for young persons to begin early and work hard to get the day's work over, for the purpose of going home to assist their parents in the garden or the farm?—Yes, I have known that to be the case.

4534. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you think those things so important as to stand in the way of the limitation of the hours in which women may be employed in stoves?—I do not know much about the stoves; I never was in a stove but once. There is not a stove in our establishment.

4535. Have you seen much of the employment of women in bleach works?—Not a great deal; there are no women employed in our bleach works.

4536. Though you have been 18 years in that bleach work, you do not know much about the employment of women?—Not in bleach works; I never was in any establishment but this one.

4537. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would the fact of women being cruelly treated in the cotton bleach works of England, be a reason why the law should extend to linen bleach works?—There is no cruel treatment of women in the linen bleach works.

4538. Do you believe that they are always kindly treated?—I think so.

4539. And that there is no such grasping after wealth in Ireland as there is in this country?—I do not know what there is in this country; I know that there is no grasping after wealth in our country, but as to this country I cannot say; I never was in England before in my life; I think a law may be very applicable in England that is not applicable to us.

4540. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you think it is kind treatment for the women in Ireland, to keep them at a hot stove 14 or 16 hours a day?—I can only say that I know some of the women, and I never heard them complain.

Veneris, 3° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Clark.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Crook.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Dalgleish.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

William Kirk, Esq., a Member of the House, Examined.

W. Kirk, Esq., M. P.

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4541. Mr. *Davison.*] ARE you Member for the Borough of Newry?—I am.

4542. What is your occupation in life?—I am a linen merchant, bleacher, dyer and finisher, the business being now principally carried on by my sons; I am also partner with others of my sons as flax spinners and manufacturers, both by power and hand.

4543. You have, I presume, an intimate acquaintance with the processes of bleaching and beetling?—If I live until the 5th of the present month it will be 50 years since I first went to it; I went on the 5th of July 1807 as an apprentice to my maternal uncles.

4544. Were they also extensive bleachers?—They were.

4545. Will you have the kindness to state the number of men that are employed in your bleaching works?—In the bleaching works, taken, as such, 25 men and five boys.

4546. In your dyeing works?—Sixteen men and seven boys.

4547. Your lapping rooms?—Forty men and 14 boys; in my beetling mills 159 men and 55 boys; this, of course, does not include any but those that are specially engaged; we have a number of mechanics and labourers and other servants about the place.

4548. Making a total of how many men and boys?—Two hundred and forty men and 81 boys positively engaged in those works; I should add here that there are three women, but they are simply engaged in marking ends and stitching; marking with Turkey red cotton the marks on the cloth.

4549. Will you state the general working hours in your establishment, including winter and summer?—The persons employed in our bleaching and dyeing works in the winter season, that is from the middle of October till about the first or second week of February, commence at daylight and stop when the light goes, having one hour for breakfast, and 10 or 15 minutes for eating a piece and having a smoke about two o'clock. There is a lodge or place provided for them, where they go and sit down, where there is a fire, and have a smoke. In the summer we commence at half-past five in the morning, and work steadily till half-past six at night, having an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner, and have done that all along; but, on the whole of the labour we do not work 60 hours a week the year round.

4550. This alludes to your regular hours of work?—Yes.

4551. Are you subject to interruptions in this work?—Yes, to great interruptions; because the works I now speak of are dependent, in a great measure, on the weather; I am speaking now of bleaching-works and dyeing-works; then, with regard to the lapping-rooms, we commence there at six, and work from six to six in summer, with an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, and in the winter we commence at seven and work till eight, having two and a half hours, stopping at half-past four, and resuming at six. In the lapping-rooms, however, we occasionally, but as seldom as possible, work overtime; if we have an order in the morning, and our people do not begin, as they frequently do not begin until nine o'clock, because we have not employment, we then go on until the order is completed. We are merchants as well as manufacturers and bleachers. The goods are piled up in large presses in the various rooms ready for being made up; the

orders

orders come, we take and make them up to order; it may be that it is an export order, and in that case that must be made up 36 inches to the yard, for a home order it is 37 inches; if going for exportation they must be made up in a particular form, ornamented with a peculiar paper and stamps, with a particular seal; all this must be done, and it must be got ready that night, to be sent forward next morning to catch the steam-boat. Generally speaking, we are obliged to do this; but I should say that in no case, at least for many years, are we longer than seven or half-past seven o'clock, and that not frequently; still we feel it would be a very great mar if we are obliged to quit precisely at six. On Saturdays we generally stop about four, from half-past three to five, as the case may be. Then, with regard to the beetling-mills, we have two sets of men and boys; these men and boys work alternately day and night; that is, they work a month by day and a month at night; the ordinary hours of commencing work in the summer, when the men come at the ordinary time the others do, is about half-past five, or thereabouts; they have nothing to do until seven, because of this beetling-engine, a model of which I have brought, which will illustrate more fully than any description that I can give. This beam is supposed to be in work; it is turned by this machinery.—[*A model was produced, to which the Witness referred.*]

4552. The beetling process is affected by mechanical arrangements for lifting the beetles off these beams, and then they fall by their own weight?—Yes.

4553. They fall upon the linen which is laid upon these rollers, do they not?—Yes; the roller then, when it is in work, is thrown into a class of machinery called "traverses," which gives them a rotary motion, and a lateral motion, so that the beetle never falls twice upon the same place; according to the nature of the finish we require to give, we give the cloth half an hour, an hour, two hours, or three hours beetling before it is taken off, and the rule and arrangement is, that during the day the shorter quantity of beetling shall be given, and during the night that the longer quantity of beetling shall be given. The labour of the men consists simply in stripping off the cloth; for that purpose the engine is provided with two beams; supposing we want to work it by men the beam is thrown in till the cloth is sufficiently worked; then that beam is thrown out, the other thrown in, and the machinery is turned on and works away; while it is working away, the man strips down the cloth from the beam on to an apron board; he is sitting on a form raised sufficiently high to allow his knees to be under this apron board; it is 22 inches up, sufficient to enable him to sit as easily as I can sit upon a chair; he turns the cloth end for end, and arranges it; if there is no machinery to turn the beam, a boy has to turn it by hand. Some years ago I thought it would be an important improvement, and some saving to me, to put in that simple belt which you see, and I put it in as you see it, and we have a rod that runs across in front of the man, who has no difficulty whatever; he catches this rod, and it throws out a clutch, which is not shown upon this model; he can stop it and work it himself by the aid of machinery without a boy; but I found my workpeople objected to it most seriously. A man would come to me, and say, "My son, Jem or Tom, is 14 years of age, and able to work as well as me; I cannot do without his labour; I have no chance without sending him to the farm, and he would have very small wages there, scarcely as much as would clothe him beyond his food." I found there was very great objection to it; that although I had a large quantity of these beetling engines changed, no less than 48 of them, I stopped in consequence of the dissatisfaction which arose amongst my workmen.

4554. In order to give these people employment?—Yes, and besides that, I find that the lads going in at 14, were quite able to do our work, and became better workmen in consequence of being taught early.

4555. At what age do you take these boys into your establishment?—We never take any boys into our bleaching or dyeing or beetling works under 14, unless we are deceived about the age, and I often judge of that myself.

4556. Are the different processes of manufacture in your and other establishments dependent on previous stages?—Yes.

4557. That is, if the work in the previous stages be not in a forward state, it retards the work in the next stage?—Quite so, and we are retarded occasionally in consequence of being unable to get the process forward, therefore our labour is not so continuous as we would desire to have it.

4558. What effect would it have on the linen trade if you were obliged to stop a given hour, without going on for half an hour or an hour, as the case may be, in

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these different works?—I consider that it would have the effect of retarding every thing very much; suppose, for instance, that a frost took place in the morning or during the night, and we could not lift cloth as is commonly the case, especially in the hilly districts in which I live; and my works are situated 500 feet above the level of the sea, therefore we are more subject to frost than those who live in the neighbourhood of Belfast, which is more level; we cannot lift the cloth in a frost; consequently, for an hour or more, our men are sometimes sitting idle. If we were obliged to stop at a fixed hour, and all our boys were to be turned off, the necessary consequence would be, that the pot would be left unfilled, and there would be danger in the bleaching process, and the operations of the day would be retarded in consequence of that. The same would be the case at the dinner hour, and again if we had a parcel of cloth to wash at night, or to bring out of a kieve at night, and it was not done at the exact moment, we must either lose half or three quarters of an hour, or run the risk of injury or retardment.

4559. Then in those works the labour cannot necessarily be continuous?—It cannot be, because it is dependent upon that circumstance; the labour in the beetling works is of a continuous character.

4560. Can you tell about how many hours of continuous labour there are in these other portions of the work, in the course of the day?—We are by no means satisfied with the state of things at present, and we have wished very much to alter it, both to our own advantage and to that of our workpeople; but the agitation about this Bill has been a very serious cause of injury. We employ by the day, and we were very anxious to have changed that to employment by the piece, as that would give the people better wages, and would enable us to do more work with the same hands; but, finding the agitation going on about this Bill, I thought it was not worth while to change, although I had made arrangements for changing about three years ago. Suppose, for instance, that a man gets a task, and he wants to go and plant some vegetables in his garden, or some potatoes in his field, and he comes and asks for a task, that is, to get a day's work, laid out as a task to him; he finishes the task at about 11 or 12 o'clock, and goes away to do what he wants; and I think he would earn a great deal more wages if his work was done by task.

4561. How many continuous hours of labour are there out of the 12?—Eleven hours, from half-past five till half-past six in the summer season; that is, 13 hours, with two hours off for meals; so that there is 11 hours nominal work in the summer, and on the average about eight in the winter.

4562. And even that is subject to considerable interruption?—Of course it is.

4563. In the beetling department, how many hours of continuous labour will there be during the night or day?—I think the continuous labour during the day, at the beetling engine, never exceeds eight hours, and during the night it never exceeds six, or six-and-a-half at the outside.

4564. And you state that you have separate hands employed during the night?—Yes, we have two sets of men who work alternately every month, or two months, or three months, which ever they please; we leave that to their own regulation.

4565. You have spoken of the agitation about this Bill, do I understand you that that agitation arose on the part of your own workpeople?—No, certainly not; it arose in consequence of John Waring, the man who was examined first here; I do not know whether any person accompanied him or not, but he came over and issued a number of placards, calling upon a number of my people to agitate the question.

4566. Previous to that, you had no complaints?—No, no complaints except that I was complaining that they did not do enough work, and that I wanted to change them to piece-work; there had been no arrangement entered into, it was of my own free will.

4567. During the time that you have carried on business before this agitation to which you have alluded, did you hear of any complaints upon that subject from the workpeople?—Yes; we had a species of turn-out for a day or two in the year, when the currency was changed.

4568. But that was a complaint upon other grounds?—Yes, the people wanted to get British currency instead of Irish, and we gave it to them.

4569. I was asking with respect to complaints about over work, had you any complaints about that?—No; the only time was that when the currency was changed;

changed; they asked to get their wages raised to British currency, and we raised it.

4570. I think you have stated the average number of hours per week?—Yes.

4571. They did not exceed, as I understand you, 60 hours?—I am satisfied they do not work 60 hours a week the year round, even including odd times; we do work over-time, but it is very rare.

4572. Did you cast your eye over previous Bills which were introduced for the regulation of the trade?—Yes, I did.

4573. Will you state your opinion in reference to the application of those Bills to the linen business generally?—I think that the 14th clause of the last Bill is peculiarly offensive, and I think that no Member of the Committee can read that clause without considering it so.

4574. Have you a copy of it?—I have a copy before me.

4575. Will you just refer to that clause?—It is a clause headed "Obstructing Inspectors, an Offence;" and is as follows: "All persons wilfully obstructing the inspectors or sub-inspectors in exercising any of the said powers shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be subject, in each case, respectively, to the penalties imposed by the said 'Print Works Act (1843)' for like obstructions to the inspectors or sub-inspectors in the execution of the powers given by that Act; and the owner of any bleaching work in which an inspector or sub-inspector shall be obstructed by any attempt to prevent him from making a full and complete examination of all parts of the bleaching works, and of every person employed therein, shall be liable to the penalty provided by the said Act in the case of like obstruction in print-works." Now I conceive that gives the inspector power to walk into any part of my works and to examine even into the departments of the office and look into my private affairs, and I consider it exceedingly objectionable; I dislike inspection altogether, but I consider that the most objectionable clause I ever saw in an Act of Parliament.

4576. You object also, I understand you, to inspection on another ground, by reason of each department of your trade being dependent upon a previous one, and the impossibility of stopping at a particular hour?—It is not impossible to stop, I do not mean to say that, but I say that it would be exceedingly disadvantageous to stop.

4577. You mean it would be injurious to the trade?—Yes, besides I feel that there is no necessity for it, because the tendency with us is to shorten hours. We never have had long hours, properly so called, but the tendency is to short hours; and my feeling is, that so far from the workpeople being at our mercy, we are at theirs; and I believe the next Act of Parliament that will be passed will be for the protection of the masters, because there is no tyranny like the tyranny of the mob, and that is what we are coming to.

4578. Have you any stoves?—I have.

4579. How many?—I have two steam stoves, one hot air stove, and a drying machine heated by steam.

4580. What class of persons work in these stoves?—Adult males.

4581. What is the temperature of your stoves?—The temperature of the steam stoves which are for airing cloth upon is about 80°; 80° is our average, or 75°, never, I think, exceeding 85°.

4582. Is there any current of fresh air introduced into these stoves?—Yes, we could not dry if there was not; a current of fresh air is introduced below; it passes up through the stove, the floors are open, and it passes up through ventilators to the top, to allow the damp and hot air to pass out.

4583. Are those stoves used in summer and winter?—No, the steam stoves are not used during the summer at all, only for three or four months in the winter season, or during very damp weather.

4584. You would prefer the other process independent of the stoves?—Yes, I use the air to dry always when we can do so; stoves are simply matters of necessity; the hot air stove is used exclusively for drying goods that are dyed.

4585. You have paid particular attention to the health of your people, I believe?—I have.

4586. What is their general appearance, as compared with other persons engaged in different pursuits in the country about you?—I believe there are not more

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more healthy persons than those employed by us, and the testimony given by Dr. Leeper I know to be perfectly true.

4587. Pray is any artificial heat introduced into the beetling department?—No. The heat is about 60; there is a large beetling-room, with probably 12, 14 or 16 of these beetling engines, which are going at the rate of 60 drops a minute; the friction raises the temperature to about 60, and that is the same throughout the year. In very warm weather, such as we have had, they open the windows, in order not to allow it to go above that, because if they did, it would dry the ends of the cloth.

4588. Is there any heated air introduced into your lapping-rooms?—No; we have stoves to bring up the temperature to a moderate heat.

4589. What heat?—We keep it at about 55 in the winter, and, of course, subject to the heat of the air in summer, very much against our will, because it injures the cloths to keep them at a high temperature.

4590. Are these boys that are brought to your establishment at school before they come to you?—Yes; we would admit no boys into the lapping-room who are not able to read, write, and cast accounts; they must be able to do that; and the others, generally speaking, are able to read; it is a very rare case that they are not able to read; some read freely, others read imperfectly, but all are able to read more or less; and they do read, because they have books very often, and, in the intervals of labour, I see the boys in the beetling-room with books in their hands.

4591. Is it at the instance of the parents that these boys are admitted?—Yes; we have always numerous applications upon our list; in fact, we are forced to take more boys than we wish; there is a constant pressure upon us by the parents.

4592. Is the remuneration to the hands in your establishment, and in the other establishments that you are acquainted with, better than that of ordinary agricultural labourers?—At the particular seasons of spring and of harvest, the people around give higher wages; but we were always in the habit of giving the highest wages of any of the parties around us, and, as I have already explained, it is not my fault that the wages are not much higher.

4593. Have you any knowledge of the bleaching operations on the continent?—I have a good deal; I have felt it my duty, as I found my sons were growing up around me, and as I could spare time to go to see what was doing in other countries, to go and make inquiries; but what roused me to that, was the fact that I had been doing a considerable linen business in France with one of the first houses there, and I was the person who supplied the statistics, I believe, to the Committee which sat in 1841, prior to the change of tariff with France; I supplied at least a large portion of the statistics of the linen trade at that time through one of the honourable Members of the Committee. This led me to go in 1844 to the first French Exhibition, which was brought about by Louis Philippe, as the Committee are aware.

4594. Did you institute any comparison whilst at the Exhibition relative to the manufacture of linen in France, or upon the continent, and in Ireland?—I did, carefully.

4595. Will you state to the Committee what the result of that comparison in 1844 was?—The result of the comparison at that time was, that they were a vast distance behind us, both in manufacture, bleach-colour and finish.

4596. Did you return again to the French Exhibition in 1855?—I did; but in the meantime I had been making comparisons besides, the circumstances of which I can detail if necessary, and which led me to think that the Prussians were making great progress; I therefore went to the Berlin Exhibition in 1849, having previously been to the Brussels Exhibition, and carefully examined and studied the stages of progress which they were making. Then again I was still more interested in the Great Exhibition of 1851; I was making careful and clear notes of the progress which each of those nations were making; and in 1855 I was at the French Exhibition; I spent many days in the linen department there.

4597. Did you find any difference upon the comparison which you made in 1855 with the comparison which you made in 1844?—I could not have believed it possible that any nation could make such progress as the French, and indeed the continental nations generally, had made in the course of the time that elapsed.

4598. Are you aware of the introduction of Irish machinery into the continent?—

tinent?—Yes; when I was over, in 1849, I went to the King of Prussia's bleaching works at Erdmannsdorf, and I saw a set of traverses there for working beetling engines; and I knew those traverses to be of the same model as Messrs. Richardson's, of Glenmore. I made inquiry, and I found that to be the case; and in a short time a person jumped from between the beetling engines; I thought he would have embraced me; it seems he had left my place about ten years before, although he was earning very good wages there; and that he then went to the King of Prussia's spinning mill; and in going through the establishment, I saw a number of Belfast girls; I knew they were Irish by their accent, and I asked them where they came from, and they told me from Belfast.

4599. So that not only is the machinery imported into Prussia and France, but also the very persons who worked the machinery in Ireland?—Yes; one of the largest Prussian manufacturers, I believe, in existence in Prussian Silesia, is the house of Messrs. Kramsta & Co., with whom I am very well acquainted. One of that firm was over with me for six or eight months, and he knew the process of bleaching linen as well as I do: they are very large bleachers; and so far from the King of Prussia, who is himself a bleacher and spinner, restricting them in their hours of labour, or anything of that kind, he conferred some order, I forget the name of it now, but one of the highest orders of merit in Prussia that can be given to a civilian, upon old Mr. Kramsta, who is now dead.

4600. For what did he get that order?—In consequence of the extent to which he had made improvements in bleaching machinery, and in consequence of the extent to which he was carrying on spinning and manufactures. I saw a large quantity of cloth woven by the poorer class of people living in the neighbouring country of Bohemia. There is a valley, with a beautiful stream of pure water, which flows from the base of the mountains down to Erdmannsdorf. There was a great number of bleaching places upon that water, and I saw their process. I saw how rude and simple that process was, compared with the processes in Messrs. Kramsta's works, nearer Breslau.

4601. Then the introduction of this machinery, and the introduction of hands accustomed to work it, must have a very serious effect, added to the low price of labour in that country, upon the trade both in Scotland and in Ireland, must it not?—Decidedly. I should not be at all surprised if before seven years a very large quantity of linen may be sent into England from those countries, now we have free trade, because the wages for labour are very low, while the intelligence of the people employed there is very extraordinary. I found a man working at Mr. Kramsta's works dressing up cloth; I asked him the use of the machinery near to which he was engaged; he at once explained it to me, and said, "Sir, I will give you a drawing of it," and he took out his pencil, and made me a drawing of it, at which I was perfectly surprised. When we had passed away from him, I asked young Mr. Kramsta what wages he gave this man; I calculated the amount of it in Prussian money, and found that he was getting about 9 *s.* a week, and that man had a decidedly superior education to myself. I never saw a man who could more readily make a draft, or make calculations more readily. I have no doubt that in Prussia they find better education for their workpeople; whether it is compulsory or not, I really do not pretend to know; but I certainly found an extraordinary degree of intelligence amongst the people, especially amongst the workmen.

4602. Do you happen to know that premiums are given by the Prussian Government for the erection of machinery?—I do not mean to say that I know it personally; but I have been told by parties that they have got a premium for the erection of machinery for spinning.

4603. You stated, I think, that there was no restriction of the hours of labour in Prussia?—None whatever. I do not know what the amount of wages is now; but when I was there in 1849, I went minutely into that, and into their social condition generally, as far as I had the opportunity; and as to their farming and manufacturing population, the wages for labour were, I think, upon an average, about 7 *d.* a day of our money, with unrestricted time; and I found that the wages of their farm servants was 3 *l.* a year for an active man, with food and lodgings.

4604. Then, independent altogether of the question of the work of women and of children, is it your opinion that the imposition of a law restricting you, as is now proposed, would have an injurious effect upon the trade of Ireland and Scotland?—Decidedly, I think so. I think, if I mistake not, it will be found that trade will be much better for all parties if it be allowed to settle itself. I have been

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been all my life a free trader, and I believe that demand and supply will very soon balance each other, and that nothing can be more injurious in a State than to interfere. I am a firm convert to the wisdom of Sir Robert Peel; I believe that anything like restriction in trade is neither more nor less than an evil.

4605. Mr. *Massey*.] You say, I think, that you employ only three women in your works?—That is all.

4606. And you employ no boys under the age of 14 years?—No.

4607. Have you any boys at so early an age as that?—They come to us at about 14; I do not exactly take their ages.

4608. How many boys altogether have you?—Eighty-one; that is including the lapping rooms.

4609. Have you visited many bleaching works in Prussia and other places?—I visited all the bleach-works in the district, and several others on the river from Erdmannsdorf upwards.

4610. Do you consider, upon the whole, that they are in a condition successfully to compete with similar establishments in Scotland and Ireland?—If the thing goes on for the next 15 years as it has gone on for the last eight or ten, unquestionably they will.

4611. Do I understand you to say that a measure limiting the hours of labour in the English works would throw the balance in favour of the foreign establishments?—I think it has a tendency so to do, because I believe there is no necessity whatever for the limitation of the hours as far as Ireland is concerned; and I know the working of the thing in my own country pretty well.

4612. You have spoken of stove rooms in which the temperature is about 85?—From 80 to 85.

4613. Are boys employed in that room?—No, adult males, and they are only in it for a short time. The cloth is hung up, and the men leave it, and go back at the end of two or three hours, and take it down again.

4614. You say that no boys under the age of 14, and no women are employed in your works; is that the case with other similar establishments in Ireland?—I know of no place where women are employed, except where they are cambric handkerchiefs finished, or very light goods.

4615. Then when you are speaking of your own establishment, you are speaking for all similar establishments in Ireland?—All similar establishments. There are about 32 mills on our own river; I am speaking of those establishments that I know, and a great number of others; I suppose I could point out 12 or 15 more.

4616. You make that statement from your own personal knowledge?—Yes.

4617. *Chairman*.] I think your observations are confined to the linen bleaching establishments in France and Prussia, are they not?—Yes; I think that the cotton bleaching in the neighbourhood I was through, seems to me to be conducted in a somewhat similar manner to those in the neighbourhood of Manchester; that is, the ends of the pieces are sewed together, and they are passed through rollers and dropped into the boiler just in the same manner as they are in the neighbourhood of Manchester; in fact, I think they have imitated the Manchester or Bolton people.

4618. And did you inquire at all into the regulations of the cotton spinning mills in Prussia?—No, I did not attend to the cotton spinning.

4619. Therefore you do not know whether the hours of labour in the spinning mills in Prussia are restricted by law or not?—In a large spinning mill that I was in they worked 12 hours.

4620. Was that flax or cotton?—Flax; a very large spinning mill, I think it was, of 15,000 spindles, and they were preparing to build more.

4621. I think you gave us the heat in the steam stoves, but I am not sure whether you did give us the heat in the hot-air stoves?—I was not asked that question.

4622. Perhaps you will be good enough to mention it now?—I should say that the heat in the hot-air stoves was about 100; but, I was going to observe, I did not follow the thing out; that that is used for drying in the mordants: you are no doubt aware that linen will receive no colour except blue without a mordant; that is a chemical substance, generally speaking a neutral salt, formed by the dissolution of metal by an acid. This neutral salt is spread over the cloth, which has an affinity at once for the cloth and for the dye; and, in order to make that colour fast, it is necessary to spread this over the surface of the cloth, and dry it in the stove. The men go in and leave this cloth hanging till the morning; they

they then change it, and leave it all day, and go back in the afternoon, or whatever time it was dry; then they take it down, and fill it again, and then it is left all night; there is no continuous labour in the stoves.

4623. In that stove I think you stated that only adult males were employed?—No; nobody but adult males could do it, because the cloth is hung upon rollers high up, and the men are raised up for the purpose of filling it.

4624. Mr. *Davison.*] And they only go in at stated intervals?—They go in in the morning, and pull off the cloth which has been dried in the night, and re-fill it, and then go in in the afternoon again, and remove it and re-fill it, and leave it for the night.

4625. They are at other work during the interval, are they not?—Yes, they are.

4626. Mr. *Turner.*] I think you said the workpeople in your works objected to the boys being taken away, and machinery substituted for their attending to the beetles; they did not like the idea?—I do not think that the boys were taken away; but when we altered 48 of our beetling engines, they, the boys who were on the list of applicants for employment, were not taken on so rapidly, and then the people began to grumble and complain, and said it was very hard; and some of them even talked of leaving if I did not employ them.

4627. Could those boys have been employed in farm-labour, or upon land?—Yes.

4628. Then that was not considered so good as your labour?—Oh, no; because the way in which the farmers employ them with us is to feed them and give them very small wages. I suppose a boy would not get more than 3 *l.* in the half year, or it might be only 50 *s.*

4629. Then you infer that your labour was preferred?—Yes.

4630. You require them, at the age of 14, to come to you educated to a certain extent?—You must be aware, from what I said in the House the other night, that I conceive that national education in Ireland, while it has diffused itself over a larger surface, has lowered its quality.

4631. But they can read and write and cypher?—Those that come to the lapping-room must be able to read, write, and cypher; but those that come to the other operations are simply taught to read; some can write, but not many.

4632. Do the landowners, the agriculturists, and farmers, require any standard of education for the boys whom they employ?—I think not at all; they take them in any kind of way; the boys go very often to herd in the summer season, and then, whatever education they get, they get in the winter.

4633. Then there is not the same care exercised by the farmers and agriculturists as to the education of the boys, as there is in your case?—That is scarcely a fair question to ask me; I believe we are as good as our neighbours; I should not like to say we were better.

4634. You say that damage would accrue to the goods in its processes, if you were compelled to stop at six o'clock?—That would extend to the breakfast hour; we must have a fixed breakfast hour and a fixed dinner hour, and if we were filling a pot of cloth which would contain 320 pieces of linen, and if we put in 50 or 60 pieces, and then when the hour comes we must stop; a portion must stop, at all events.

4635. Would not the same damage occur in time of hay-making, for instance, if the haymakers were all compelled to knock off work at six o'clock?—Of course.

4636. Do the farmers adopt that idea?—I do not know that damage would occur, but there would be a certain amount of loss in that case; but what I mean by the word damage, is this; I want to explain myself fully: suppose we put a certain quantity of alkaline lees in a pot, and the steam is turned off, and in order to fill it we put in 50 or 60 pieces where the lye in pot is sufficient for 300 pieces, and allow them to lie for an hour, they would be injured; the vegetable fibre would be destroyed.

4637. You say your workpeople were not at all complaining or uneasy as to their hours, until a certain visit was paid upon the part of Mr. Waring?—Yes; I did not see Waring, but I was told it was him.

4638. You infer that he created a deal of uneasiness in your neighbourhood?—The people brought me down a great number of placards printed on different coloured papers on one side for the pasting up.

4639. You did not think he was a promoter of peace in your district?—No, I think not.

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4640. You say that in foreign countries you found the same machinery in use?—Similar machinery.

4641. And apparently equally effective?—Yes.

4642. And you saw many of the same hands as you had seen in Ireland?—Yes; I saw one person who had been in my own employment; and I saw a number of persons who had gone from the neighbourhood of Belfast.

4643. The same machinery being employed, or machinery of the same description, and the same hands being employed and the hours unlimited there, what is to prevent the rapid progress of Prussian manufacture, in comparison with Irish, if you are put under restriction?—The fact is, I have been told, and believe it to be true, that numbers of persons come over to this country and serve a species of apprenticeship to bleaching; I know one person, who told me himself that he had no less than six foreigners with him, and that they remained six, nine, or twelve months with him to acquire a knowledge of bleaching, they having previously acquired a knowledge of chemistry, and that they left, and were now managing bleaching works on the continent. I know also that in America there is a very large joint stock company, under the limited liability system, who got a young gentleman named Ferguson from the neighbourhood of Belfast; he went out there, superintended the erections, and left them at work.

4644. I understand you to say that to all these facts you speak a little doubtfully; but that in a series of years they might compete successfully with us?—I have no doubt that they will.

4645. What should prevent their doing so rapidly; you speak of a long period of years?—I will give you my reasons for that; I know this much, that one great thing which serves us is the large quantity we do, and the very small profit we are content with. If I can get 4 *d.* a piece, or something like that, upon a piece of linen, I am quite glad to get quit of it, and it will take them time to extend their works, and do a like quantity to enable them to compete with us.

4646. But the progression will be in that direction?—Clearly it must be.

4647. Mr. *Davison.*] Are you able to form an opinion as to the effect that will be produced upon the Lancashire trade in the bleaching of cotton; have you remarked the bleaching of cotton in Prussia?—No. I have remarked that it seems the same, but I am not sufficiently at home in cotton bleaching. I know the theory, but I do not know the practical effects; I might walk into a cotton bleaching mill, and I might suppose I knew it, when in reality I might miss some minute thing which might form an important feature in it, and I therefore speak with great diffidence.

4648. Assuming that they got the machinery from England, and assuming that they had no restriction with regard to the hours of labour, and further assuming that they got their hands from England to work that machinery, does it not appear to you likely that it must interfere with the cotton bleaching in England?—Yes; in looking through the bleaching establishment, I asked them, "Did you buy this cloth in Manchester?" they said no, they did not; I said "Where did you get it?" "Oh!" said they, "we buy the yarn in Manchester; we can get it wove here as cheap or cheaper, and we can bleach it as well as they can;" that was a remark that was quite incidental; but I am speaking of what they told me; I do not know it of my own knowledge.

4649. Mr. *Clark.*] Has the agitation caused by Mr. Waring's visit subsided?—Yes.

4650. What is the feeling of the workpeople with regard to legislation?—The feeling of my people is that there is no necessity for it: I could have brought them over here, and it may perhaps appear strange that I did not, but the reason was, that my son John, who is the principal manager of the bleaching works, is at present in England, and we could not leave the establishment, nor be taking away some of our most intelligent hands while the masters are both absent; it might cause a great loss, and our processes are so delicate, that we are afraid to take parties away.

4651. If there is any restriction with regard to hours, would it influence your conduct with regard to the boys and women employed in your bleaching works?—If there was a restriction as regards hours, I, as a matter of course, should put belts on the beetling machines, and do away with all boys at beetling engines.

4652. Then the consequence of legislation would be that you would dismiss the boys and women?—I do not employ any women; the three women I have spoken

spoken of are only employed a few hours in the day; they do not begin till eight or nine in the morning, and have generally done by four or five in the afternoon; they work by task.

4653. But you would dismiss the boys in preference to having an oversight over your establishment?—Decidedly; I have read you the clause to which I object, and which this Act would be likely to carry out.

4654. Do the observations you make with regard to your own establishment apply generally to the other establishments in the north of Ireland?—Yes; there is one important point that I think I have neglected to explain to the Committee, and that is, that nearly all the bleaching-engines that I know of, except a very few, are driven by water-power; but at the head of the rivers there are generally reservoirs made; at the head of our river we have four large reservoirs; they cover a space of 300 or 350 acres of ground, upon which we lock up water during the winter season, varying from 12 to 25 feet in depth, and these are drawn off; there is a committee of management, who draw this off in certain quantities, so as to give us, according to the depth of water in the lakes, about three-quarters of a horse power per foot of fall; this falls from one to another, and must go on continuously; I am nearest the lake, at least nearest but one; there is a spinning-mill above me; but if I was to stop the water, and keep it all night, and work only by day, from six in the morning till six in the evening, the man below me would not be able to begin until seven o'clock, because he would have no water, and he would immediately bring an action against me, and so on with people three or four miles lower down the river; they would have no water till one or two o'clock in the afternoon, and I should be liable to an action from each, because it is settled law, that where there is a stream of water worked, you must work that stream, but you must not retain the water; you must immediately pass it on to your next neighbour.

4655. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it not generally the case with regard to bleaching-mills in the north of Ireland, that they are worked by water?—Yes.

4656. The steam-power is an exception?—Yes; we have steam-power because we found it was more economical; therefore we got up three or four steam-boilers for the purpose of boiling, and we added a steam-engine, for the purpose of progressing with our work in the autumn season, when the streams are low.

4657. But the generality of the bleach-mills are driven by water?—Yes, 19 out of 20.

4658. And they generally lie down the river in the way you have described?—Precisely so.

4659. The result of course would be the same as to those down the river as in your own case?—Yes, I know that, because I had to bring an action myself against the man who held the mill above me, who being a flax spinner, stopped the water for four or five hours, and I succeeded in obliging him to pass the water on, and I know there is an action pending, in which a large firm are concerned, which is about to be referred to arbitration upon the same subject.

4660. These great reservoirs are formed for the purpose of husbanding the water, and giving a supply when it would not otherwise be given?—Yes, just so, as Sir Robert Kane recommended; but we anticipated and had the thing done before he wrote his book.

4661. Mr. *Crook.*] You were speaking of the heat of your stoves; have you any women or boys working in those stoves?—I have already answered that; we have adult males only.

4662. Do you consider the people working in those stoves are at all that class which would be affected at all by the Bill which we are considering?—Certainly not; I never thought they would.

4663. What sort of school do the children go to who are in your employ?—I have no children in my employment.

4664. But the boys; you spoke of boys; I presume that there are young men under the age of 18?—Yes; I spoke of boys from the age of 14 to 18.

4665. Am I to understand that the rule is that these boys must go to school before they can be employed by you?—We always prefer taking boys who are able to read, and, if possible, to write, but at all events to read.

4666. They must read?—I do not mean to say that they must read; I say that we prefer having them if they can read, and generally speaking they can.

4667. Is this school one of the national schools?—We are free traders in schools; there is an old Kildare-street school within about a quarter of a mile

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from my works; there is a school belonging to the Society for Discountenancing Vice in the village, and there are two national schools about three quarters of a mile from my works; then there is the Church Education Society's School, about three quarters of a mile on the other side; so that there are five different schools, two national, and three others belonging to different societies within less than a mile of my works; we have a national school of our own at the spinning mill.

4668. And the nation contributes towards that school?—No.

4669. Is it entirely supported by voluntary contributions?—No; the master gets a premium; all that we get from the Government is inspection, and they give the master a gratuity if they think he deserves it; we pay him a certain sum, and the scholars pay a penny a week.

4670. And have you one of these schools at your own works?—At the spinning mill, not at the works.

4671. So far as it goes, I may infer that you approve of the national school which you have at your works?—Certainly.

4672. And which receives money from the State?—I have not said that it receives money from the State; I say that the State finds it inspectors to inspect it.

4673. Does not the teacher receive something?—He receives a gratuity.

4674. To your knowledge the teacher receives a gratuity from the State?—Yes.

4675. Do you conceive that to be in accordance with your free-trade principles?—Decidedly; I do not mean to say that the Irish national system is perfect; but I believe it to be a very admirable system of education for the children of the poor.

4676. My object is to ascertain what your standard of free trade is; perhaps you will be kind enough to inform the Committee what you consider your standard of free trade?—If you will ask me any special question I shall be very glad to answer it.

4677. Do you conceive that this national school is on the principle of free trade?—I do.

4678. You say that trade will best settle itself?—Yes.

4679. Do you refer at present to the question of education?—I was speaking of trade; but I have not the least objection to give you my opinion about education; I believe that if you leave the people to educate themselves, they will not be educated, for they say they will not educate themselves.

4680. Do you think education is not a question of trade?—I think education and trade are not the same.

4681. Do you think that the sanitary question, that is, whether it is productive of disease in women and children to work long hours, is a question of free trade?—I do not understand the question.

4682. If it is proved to you that women and children suffer by extremely protracted hours of labour, or by working in the night, or that it is injurious to their health or to their morals, would you consider it a violation of free trade to correct that state of things?—For my part, I do not know anything of the state of the working classes in England, except what I have heard here. If it be true that all the cruelties which are stated to be practised are practised, and there is no opposite case to be got up, then in that case I would say I think it wrong; but as a man accustomed to exercise my judgment, and, generally speaking, since I have had the honour of a seat in this House, and upon Committees, I never came to any conclusion upon an *ex-parte* statement; but I hear both sides, and then I fairly and honestly come to that conclusion which my conscience and knowledge dictates; and I think, with all submission, that questions of this kind are just now rather premature.

4683. I simply asked this question: supposing an evil to be proved of this kind, in consequence of the needlessly protracted hours of labour of women and children, do you think to remedy that evil would be a violation of free trade?—No; I do not think it would.

4684. Do you know whether formerly the hours of labour were more protracted in Ireland than they are now?—I have no knowledge upon that subject; I have lived where I now live since the year 1823, and we have had no change in the hours, and no change in the mode of working.

4685. Your hours, you say, do not average ten hours a day?—They do not the year round, or certainly not more.

4686. Are you aware whether your bleaching works have worked later than six o'clock within the last week?—I said half-past six o'clock; my bleachers work on till half-past six o'clock; from half-past five o'clock in the morning till half-past six o'clock at night: those are our settled working hours.

4687. Are you aware whether you have exceeded those hours in the last week?—I am not aware; I was here, and therefore I cannot tell.

4688. You have no reason to suppose that they have been exceeded in the last week?—I should suppose not; I do not know why they should be.

4689. Have you exceeded those hours much this year?—No; we never exceed those hours in the bleaching works, except it may be in the case of a few men who are finishing putting in a keive, or there may be something wrong with the machinery, and a few of the workmen with the mechanics may remain over to put it right; but in such a case it would be only a few of the adult men.

4690. Then if this Bill passed, it would not affect your works at all, except so far as this 14th clause goes?—I have stated the contrary.

4691. You tell me that your works are not exceeding the time; that nobody is working in your works after half-past six o'clock?—Certainly, I did not; I spoke of my bleaching works.

4692. Where these boys are employed, you tell me they have not been engaged after half-past six o'clock?—Certainly not, in bleaching or dye-works.

4693. Then if this Bill passed, would it at all interfere with your business?—Not in that department.

4694. Then am I correct in saying that your only objection to this is this 14th clause?—I beg your pardon; I have told you what my objections are.

4695. Are the boys in the dye-works at present exceeding half-past six o'clock?—I have already told you that the work in the dye-works stops at half-past six o'clock.

4696. Then to what extent would it affect your operations at present, if this Bill passed?—There are 55 boys who work at the beetling engines, and who work alternately in relays of hands, one set of hands beginning at night, and the other set of hands beginning in the morning.

4697. Then rather more than 20 boys would be employed working at night?—Yes.

4698. And that is the extent to which the Bill would affect you?—Yes.

4699. But you say that the tendency is to shorten the hours; what evidence have you of that; you say you have had no alterations for 34 years; what evidence, therefore, have you of a tendency to shorten hours?—I have already informed the Committee (I do not know whether the honourable Member was present at the time or not) that we were anxious to change the work from day-work to piece-work some time back, but that I saw these Bills brought into Parliament one after the other, and as I thought there was a chance of their being enacted, I felt that it was useless to change to piecework, as, if they were passed, we must go back to day-work; if we went to piecework, I think that they would not work more than eight or nine hours a day, and they would get from 40 to 50 per cent. more wages.

4700. Do they object to piecework?—I tell you we had not begun to try it, because I saw this thing coming; we were just on the eve of it; we had not changed our arrangements; but I had spoken to several of our neighbours, and we had had a meeting, in order to arrange about the change from day-work to piece-work, and as to giving the same price, so as to make our people alike content.

4701. You say you saw the process of bleaching, I think, in Prussia?—I did.

4702. Did you see any thing to apprehend from Prussian competition?—I did, great reason.

4703. Did you inquire what the processes of bleaching were as compared with the process of bleaching in Ireland?—I did not; I was looking at the process; I was not looking at the economical question at the moment; I was looking at the nature of the process, and the intelligence of the persons, and I was inquiring the wages paid for the labour.

4704. As a free trader, do you apprehend much from the competition of a rival who is subsidised by the State; you say some of these works have received a premium?—That refers to spinning mills.

4705. But you are not aware whether the bleaching works have?—I told you the King of Prussia had bestowed an order on Mr. Kramsta; that shows the appreciation in which a man of his kind is held.

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4706. It may be a commercial question whether these bleachers receive a premium; they are subsidised by the State?—I told you I was not aware of any bleacher having received a premium; that observation applied to spinning mills.

4707. Have you any idea what time the process takes abroad as compared with that at home?—I think it takes rather less time than ours; and they go upon the old-fashioned principle that obtained in the days of my grandfather, who was also a bleacher; and their mode is this, to spread their cloth with the alkali in, and then water it; that produces a very peculiar effect if they are careful in watering; they have wooden pipes laid over the field, which supply water, which they cause to fall upon it in a shower that bleaches very rapidly in the summer season, or at any time from March to October.

4708. Do you apprehend any danger of competition from these persons who are using this old-fashioned mode?—I think if you limit, and cripple, and cramp us to prevent our operations, and they are left free, it is likely that in the race of competition they will successfully compete with us, when their establishments become as large as ours are at present.

4709. That is, if we were to stop your 20 lads at night, these people would overtake you?—I think that question is not exactly appropriate; I think this: if I am going to run a race, I should not make a very good hand of it if I had one of my legs tied up.

4710. You tell us you cannot work your water-power at night?—No; I tell you the reverse; I cannot stop it at night.

4711. That it must run night and day?—Clearly that is the law of the land, the settled law.

4712. With regard to these meal-times, have you not regular meal-times in the bleaching and dye works now?—Yes, one hour for breakfast, and one hour for dinner.

4713. Can you tell the Committee at what time the boys go to breakfast?—They go at eight o'clock, and return at nine; and they go to dinner at two, and return at three o'clock.

4714. Then if this Bill passes, it would not make any alteration in the breakfast hour, perhaps?—No, I should say not; we find those hours suitable for our purpose.

4715. Mr. *Davison.*] The honourable Member assumes that if this Bill passed, it would only interfere with these 20 boys; did I understand you to state in your direct evidence that your work is continuous, and if one department of the process is interfered with, it might retard the whole?—Just so.

4716. And you gave as a reason for that, that if you were obliged to stop at a particular hour, and to leave off at a late hour, when these keives were being filled, although it might cause a certain loss of one-half hour, it might be injurious to other parts of the works?—Decidedly; it is a well-known fact.

4717. So that in that respect it would interfere to a most serious extent?—Decidedly.

4718. Bleaching mills in the country, I believe, are situated in the open country, in the midst of bleaching fields?—Yes, they must be in a place where there is pure air and pure water; we could not bleach without.

4719. A great portion of the work is done in the open air?—Yes; and persons going out and in, the labour not being continuous in the bleaching mills, and when they are out, a place is provided for them in which they can go and sit.

Hugh Seymour Tremenheere, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. S. Tremenheere, Esq.

4720. *Chairman.*] HAS your attention been called to the evidence which has been given to this Committee by Dr. Boase?—It has.

4721. Are you anxious to make any comment on the evidence that you find reported?—I should like to make an observation on one or two of Dr. Boase's remarks; I observe, at Question 3629 and 3630, Dr. Boase states that he does not accept the evidence on which the report was founded as complete and satisfactory; he states that it is not enough; it gives one a general idea; that, in order to be satisfactory, the report ought to have gone more minutely into investigations, and that the people from the different works were not examined, nor their case made out. I did not think it necessary to examine the people at the different works; the inquiry did not relate to the condition of the adult males employed, but more especially to the fact of the nature of the employment for the females and

and the boys. Into that inquiry I went, with what I believed to be sufficient particularity as I ascertained that in Scotland there were altogether 618 females, and 223 boys employed at the different works; that these females were occasionally employed at night-work, and the boys also, especially in the beetling machines, and that therefore the case, as related to the inquiry, was amply made out.

4722. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you state the number of women and females employed in the bleaching and dyeing works in Scotland in 1818?—In the east of Scotland, to which Dr. Boase's evidence refers, 618 females and 223 boys. Dr. Boase also stated that one of my allegations was not strictly correct, namely, that deviations from the arrangement as regarded not working overtime would be prevented, if, when resorted to, it placed those employers who adhered to it under considerable disadvantage. Dr. Boase states that, as far as he was aware, there had been no such deviations. I find, according to the evidence of Mr. Petrie, the manager of Mr. Richards' works, near Montrose, that he stated, in works of the same company, near Aberdeen, the recognised hours of work were from six to seven; and although, in the present state of the trade, they seldom continued to work so late as seven, they would do so if trade revived, and work overtime, if the work required it, the work after seven o'clock being paid for as overtime. The fact of deviations from understandings with regard to the limitation of hours of work had been so completely brought before my mind in the inquiry in the west of Scotland, and it had been so satisfactorily shown that, although with the best intention, a large number of employers might desire to keep to any arrangement, nevertheless circumstances would arise when a certain number of them would break through it. I thought that the principle had been sufficiently established; the general principle that, however much it might be desired to adhere to a general arrangement, it was liable to be broken through, under certain circumstances, which could only be made permanent by an Act of Parliament. I observe that exception is taken to the evidence of Mr. Daniel Forbes, who stated the circumstance as to the operatives employed in the beetling works falling down, and going to sleep; and Mr. Forbes' character is stated not to have been very correct; that he was dismssed from his employment; and Dr. Boase is asked whether he is aware that I made any inquiry as to the truthfulness of Mr. Daniel Forbes, or of other parties from whom I took evidence. In an inquiry of this kind, if I found a person in a responsible situation, managing a bleach-work, I did not think I had the least right to inquire into his private character; his position appeared to me to be a sufficient guarantee of the correctness of his evidence; and I found that Mr. Turnbull, whose character stands deservedly very high in the country, and who owns an adjoining work, gives evidence to the same point as Mr. Forbes. I observe also that Dr. Boase, at Question 3683, states, that at times, even in their works, although that was five years ago, they worked six months together day and night.

4273. Mr. *Baxter.*] You have stated that you did not think it necessary to examine any of the operatives upon the east coast of Scotland, as the object of the Bill was not at all to interfere with adult labour; I wish to know why you did not consider it necessary upon the east coast of Scotland, when you did consider it necessary in England?—I think that I had gone so fully in England into the general principle of a measure tending to restrict the labour of females and boys, that there was no necessity for going over the same ground again.

4724. Then you were not aware that in Scotland there was no dissatisfaction, no feeling whatever in favour of the restriction of labour on the part of the labouring population?—I am not prepared to assent to that proposition; I believe there was some dissatisfaction.

4725. Then may I ask why you did not send for the operatives themselves, and ask the question?—The question was made quite clear to my mind; the necessity for legislation had been made out with regard to the English bleaching-works; it was put to me particularly by several of the bleaching masters in England, "If Ireland and Scotland are excluded, we shall be under a great disadvantage;" therefore I thought it was sufficient for me to ascertain whether there was a sufficient number of females and boys in Scotland and Ireland to require the protection of the law.

4726. When you speak of Scotland and Ireland being excluded, of course you are aware that there is a very manifest distinction between the cotton bleaching works on the west coast of Scotland and those on the east coast?—Yes.

4727. But you did not examine any operatives connected with flax, yarn, or cloth bleach-fields on the east coast of Scotland?—No.

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4728. Then you had no means of ascertaining the sentiments or feelings of the labouring classes, or of the operatives employed in those bleach-fields?—I did not think it at all necessary to ascertain whether they would like legislation or not.

4729. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you presume that the work-people would be favourable upon finding the masters generally favourable?—I presumed that if the case with regard to females and boys in the east of Scotland was the same as in the west of Scotland and in England, the question of legislation would not turn at all upon the opinion of the labouring people, but upon the fact whether the condition of the females and boys so employed was the same, or nearly the same, as it was elsewhere.

4730. Mr. *Baxter.*] Then you are prepared to say that the condition of the females and boys in these bleach-fields on the east coast of Scotland is the same, or nearly the same, as in the cotton bleach-works in Lancashire, or the west of Scotland?—I think, in regard to the principle of their employment, it is the same.

4731. You have stated that their condition is the same: I understand their condition to have reference to the number of hours they worked, and their social condition, is that so?—If they were occasionally liable to excessive hours of work, and also to night-work, I thought, and I still think, that that brings them within the same condition; whether they were more affected or less affected by the number of hours they worked, did not seem to me to affect the general principle.

4732. Then you believe that the women and boys working in the linen bleach-fields on the east coast of Scotland have been affected as to their health by excessive hours of labour?—Wherever they have been employed in hot stoves, wherever they have been employed at night-work, I should say that there can be no doubt, both physically and morally, they have been affected.

4733. You say, wherever they have been employed in hot stoves; are you aware of the number of hot stoves on the east coast of Scotland?—I am aware there are but few.

4734. Do you know how many?—At this moment I cannot state; I beg the Committee to remember that it is two years since I made this inquiry.

4735. When you speak of hot stoves, what temperature do you refer to; what do you call a hot stove?—I may be wrong with regard to the hot stoves in the east of Scotland. I see that they were employed occasionally in night-work; but it is quite obvious, in dealing with a question of this kind, you could not separate the east of Scotland from the west; and if I found a great number of females working in hot stoves in the west of Scotland, and if I found females working night-work in the east of Scotland, I presume it would not be justifiable to recommend any separation.

4736. That is a question for the Committee to decide; I am asking you with regard to hot stoves in the linen bleach-fields in the east coast of Scotland; you have stated in your evidence, that when you found women employed in these hot stoves, you supposed, as a matter of course, that it was prejudicial to their health; now you state that you believe there are no such hot stoves; I understand that to be so?—I am sorry to have a defective memory upon a matter which occurred two years ago.

4737. Mr. *Crook.*] Allow me to refer you to Question 1156, at page 880 of the evidence?—"In the stove or day-work," this is in the evidence of Mr. Petrie, "we have eight females, when we are in full work, to carry in the yarns and carry them out to shake; the temperature was about from 120 to 130."

4738. Mr. *Baxter.*] My question did not refer to the fact; I merely wished to ascertain whether you knew, from your own personal knowledge, that the females were employed in working in these stoves?—From my own personal knowledge I cannot say that I was; for I never entered a bleaching work before, and never turned my attention to the question.

4739. Are the females employed constantly in these hot stoves without going out into the open air?—No; I perceive the evidence of Mr. Petrie is, that they are not in that heat longer at a time than a minute or so; that they then come out to a cool place, and are there for a few minutes before they go back into the stoves.

4740. Are you not aware that these very hot stoves have been, in a great measure, superseded by processes in which the temperature is not nearly so high?—I have no knowledge of what has taken place since I made this inquiry.

4741. Did any one tell you that the health of the females and boys was in the least

least degree affected by any operation whatever connected with the linen yarn and cloth bleaching?—You ask me a question which I cannot answer now, so long after the inquiry; but in the west of Scotland, where a great number of persons were employed and continued for a long time in the stoves, I have no doubt that my general impression was at the time that it did affect their health.

4742. Are you not aware that there is a distinction between the stoves, even the old-fashioned stoves, in linen yarn and cloth bleaching, and the stoves employed on the west coast of Scotland, Lancashire and Cheshire?—Yes.

4743. Do you know that the operatives in the one case remain constantly in the room, whereas in the other they merely carry in the yarn for very few minutes at a time?—Very true; nevertheless if they work in that number for a considerable number of hours beyond the usual 10 hours, I conceive that it is exceedingly likely to affect their health.

4744. But no one gave you that in evidence?—The evidence is before the Committee; and I really cannot pretend to say whether they did or not.

4745. Mr. *Davison.*] Do you consider that a woman, or a number of women, going into a stove in the morning to take in linen which had been dried in a stove during the night, and then going to their ordinary out-door or in-door avocations, and again returning in the evening to put up a fresh supply, would be so injurious to health as to require legislative enactment?—Certainly not.

4746. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you happen to remember the temperature at which the stoves were regulated on the west coast of Scotland?—I have given a table of the temperatures in the stoves on the west coast of Scotland at page 90 and 91.

4747. That is with reference to the east coast of Scotland; I think you will find it at Question 745?—Mr. Robertson, junior, states that the stoves average about 90.

4748. I refer you to 748?—George Buchanan & Sons: "We have five stoves, in which the heat varies from 80 to 90."

4749. Now I refer you to evidence taken on the east coast of Scotland, at 1191?—"The females are very little in the hot stoves; just half an hour or an hour at a time, shaking the yarn half an hour out of every three hours; the temperature is from 85° to 90.

4750. Then I refer you to 1201?—"We have about 20 females in the stove under one man; the temperature is about 90° to 95°; they are seldom in it more than 10 minutes at a time; their duty is just to take in and take out the yarn; they do not operate upon it within the stove."

4751. Mr. *Baxter.*] Then they did not work in these stoves at all?—Only 10 minutes at a time.

4752. Mr. *Kirk.*] I think it is only fair to yourself and to the party to read the whole answer?—I have no objection to do so: "They come out to shake it in a cool-air drying loft. It may take them half an hour to fill, and the same to empty the stove; they will then be about half an hour shaking what they have taken out. It is undesirable that the females should be longer at a time in such a heat; and we never allow them to shake the yarn in the stove, as is the case in several bleach-works." So that it does not appear they are usually confined to that species of work 10 minutes at a time.

4753. Mr. *Baxter.*] This evidence is connected with the county of Fife; were you never told that the females employed in the bleach-works in Fife were notoriously the most healthy females in the country?—I cannot pretend to say whether I was told so or not.

4754. Mr. *Davison.*] Are you aware that the difference between the cotton stove process and the linen stove process, consists exactly in this which you have described, that it is only an occasional work in the one, and that it is continuous in the other?—I believe it is correctly so described.

4755. Mr. *Baxter.*] Then I am to understand you, that you took no evidence with a view of ascertaining the state of health of the operatives employed in the bleaching works on the east coast of Scotland?—Whatever evidence I took, is published in a report; at this moment I do not remember.

4756. Mr. *Crook.*] May I refer you to this Bill which you supplied as the example one, to give the Committee an estimate as to whether there is much overtime made in Scotland?—This table, under the head of "Regular Hours of Work," will show the general nature of the employment; as regards hours, I find "overtime when trade is good, frequently," "overtime when busy," "occasional overtime till nine or twelve at night," occurs in the east of Scotland.

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4757. Mr. *Davison.*] I think I put the question somewhat erroneously when I spoke of the cotton stoves; I meant the lapping rooms, as they are called, and not the stoves where the linen is dried, I understand, by the same process; is not the difference between the lapping rooms and the stove rooms, such as I have explained to you?—If I remember rightly, the lapping rooms are the rooms where the females in Scotland go in to move about the goods or to press them together. In Lancashire, the lapping rooms are rooms where they remain continuously; and in Scotland, although they did not remain continuously, if I may speak from my own feeling and observation, although the females in the lapping rooms remained only ten minutes at a time and then went out into the cool air, it is an employment that may be exceedingly oppressive to the females, and especially to the young ones; I saw them in great numbers evidently suffering from the heat in profuse perspiration, and looking wearied by their work.

4758. And do you mean by going in for five or ten minutes at a time?—Yes.

4759. Mr. *Baxter.*] Does that remark apply to the linen bleach fields?—No, certainly not to the fields.

4760. I mean connected with the bleach fields on the east coast of Scotland?—I cannot charge my memory whether that is so.

4761. You never heard of a woman having been taken ill, and having left her work and gone away from her employment on the east coast?—I thought it very unnecessary to attempt to draw any distinction between the east and west of Scotland in a case of that kind, if legislation was necessary at all; it struck me you could no more separate the east and west of Scotland than you could separate the east of Lancashire from the west of Lancashire; and therefore, if I found a considerable number of females working in the hot stoves in the west of Scotland, and a certain number in the east of Scotland, and a certain number of boys and females occasionally engaged in night work, I thought that a case for legislation was made out.

4762. Mr. *Kirk.*] May I ask you a few questions with reference to the Irish part of the case; and first I would inquire whether, upon so important a mission as that you were sent upon, you framed a set of questions to ask the different persons, masters and men?—No, I did not.

4763. May I take the liberty of inquiring why you did not?—I thought by making inquiries at the different works upon the points which struck me as they arose I should satisfy my own mind sufficient to enable me to form a judgment in the course of the inquiry; I myself was a learner upon the matter; I knew nothing about the question before I commenced the inquiry; I did not seek the occupation; I did not ask for it, and I did the best, according to my judgment and ability, that I found myself able to do; I did not think it necessary to frame any formal set of questions; I could not have done so *à priori*, because I was at the beginning ignorant on the matter, and by the time I had completed the inquiry, I think, according to the best of my judgment, I had satisfied my mind.

4764. But you aware it was not merely necessary you should satisfy your own mind, but also the minds of others. When you had not a formal set of questions to address either to employers or employed, was it not natural that you should have given in your Appendix the questions which you actually did put?—I am quite aware it was necessary to satisfy other people's minds besides my own, but it appeared to me that the evidence I had collected in a body was calculated to satisfy impartial minds in reading it.

4765. Are you not aware that an answer very much depends upon the question which it is an answer to?—Yes.

4766. Now, taking the very first witness whose testimony you give, do you happen to recollect anything of the kind of question you asked Mr. Alexander Hunter, of Dunmurry, the first witness? You will find it at page 73 of the Appendix; you give five answers, and I am very desirous of knowing what were the exact questions you put to elicit those answers?—I went upon the principle, in collecting the whole of this evidence, that it was not necessary for me to swell the report by printing the questions that I asked; I took down the evidence on the spot, and I threw myself on my general character to bear me out in giving correctly what evidence I took.

4767. I assure you I do not intend to impute your motives, quite the contrary; I believe you to be influenced by perfectly pure and upright motives; but you must give me leave to question, and I shall do it in the gentlest manner possible, whether you did not give Mr. Hunter the idea that there was to be an Act for

Scotland

Scotland and Ireland; look at answer 902?—"I think at the same time, that if there is to be an Act for England and Scotland, Ireland ought not to be exempt."

4768. Why should you have that answer unless in answer to some question which implied that there was to be such an Act?—I have no doubt it was.

4769. What authority had you for telling him that there would be an Act for England and Scotland?—I did not tell him upon any authority whatever; I was merely arguing the question with him, and by that means drawing out his opinion, as I did in other cases.

4770. Then I am to understand, that by the time you arrived at Mr. Hunter's, at Dumurry, you had come to the conclusion that there ought to be an Act for England and Scotland?—The master bleachers in Lancashire impressed very strongly upon me the injustice that would be done to them if an Act was to be passed, excluding Ireland and Scotland; and therefore I put it as a supposed case; supposing there is to be an Act for England and Scotland, do you think Ireland ought to be exempted? And I have no doubt that the answer given was the consequence of such a question.

4771. In fact the answer was given under the idea that there was to be such a law, was it not?—I had no authority to convey such an idea; and, as charged with this inquiry by the Government, I was probably strongly impressed with what I had already heard, that it would be undesirable to exclude Ireland and Scotland, and therefore I sought the opinion of a gentleman like Mr. Hunter upon the matter, and I have no doubt that Mr. Hunter's answer confirmed me in that opinion.

4772. But in pursuing this subject, which I think is the one upon which the merits of the case turns, as far as Ireland is concerned, did not you in your conversation with the various persons that you waited upon lead them to believe, or to infer, that an Act was contemplated for England and Scotland, and was likely to be extended to Ireland?—I do not see what right any person had to infer from anything I said to him that I spoke by authority as to there being any Act; that was the whole question of the inquiry.

4773. I should certainly not interrogate you in this way if you had given the questions as well as the answers to the questions, but as there are no questions, and as the answers appear to me to bear the construction I place upon them, I am anxious to know what the questions were?—Since the year 1839 I have been engaged in public inquiries; first of all as an Inspector of Schools; since that as a Commissioner, under the Act of Parliament relating to mines; and in the whole of the voluminous evidence which I have from time to time published, I have never thought of adding the questions to the answers, except in very exceptional cases. The practice, I believe, almost universally with school inspectors and others, in making these inquiries, is not to give the questions. Before a Committee of the House of Commons, question and answer naturally follow each other in the most formal manner, but it has never been my habit to give the questions; and I did not think any gentleman would feel that I had done wrong in omitting the questions.

4774. I should not say so if it was not from the nature of the answers themselves, and because I know they are contrary to the opinions of the parties that give them?—I am very sorry if I should have misrepresented any gentleman, but I invariably took the evidence down on the spot, and my habit was to read it aloud, as I took it down, and therefore if any gentleman had objected I should not have taken it down.

4775. I do not doubt that you took down fairly and faithfully the evidence that was given to you, I quite believe you did; but what I want to ascertain is, how that evidence was obtained, and in answer to what questions; that is the only object I have in the first instance in view?—I may state in my own justification that it is not my habit to put leading questions; and if I did on this or any other occasion, the probability is, that I was led to it by something that had occurred just before; I did not put down in many cases the whole of the conversation or the answers to the whole of the questions, I put down the substance. Sometimes I was walking about for half an hour or an hour with the gentleman about his works, inquiring into the different points, asking his opinion, ascertaining the facts, and at the end of it he would take me into his office, and there I would put down the substance and read it aloud as I took it; I should do that with a gentleman. If I was taking down the evidence of a labouring man, I should read it over to him immediately afterwards, to give him an opportunity of telling me

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whether I had taken down his evidence correctly: I did not think it necessary to do so with a gentleman, because he would understand it.

4776. Leaving that subject, permit me to ask you why you did not make inquiry of the operatives themselves in Ireland?—I did not think it necessary, for the reason I gave before; I have gone into the question very much as to the feeling of the operative bleachers in England, and I have ascertained their feelings in the west of Scotland; I did not think, therefore, that as regards the rest of the inquiry, the opinion of the operatives was of much importance.

4777. But did it not occur to you that there was an immense difference between in-door labour and out-door labour?—Certainly.

4778. Are you not aware that while the labour of the bleaching operative in Lancashire and in the west of Scotland is all in-door labour, the other is, a great portion of it, out-door labour, and did not that occur to you as a most important difference?—Unquestionably, as regards the labour of adult males, but the inquiry related to females and boys.

4779. But the number of boys work out as well as in?—Certainly.

4780. We have it in evidence, even from Lancashire, and very boldly and clearly brought out by Lancashire people themselves, that while the system of bleaching in that part of the country was dissimilar to that in Ireland, the operatives were remarkable for their health and strength; and yet it seems to have escaped you altogether as to the difference between the one and the other, for you report on each alike, or nearly so?—I beg your pardon; I do not think it escaped me. At page 29, I find that in Ireland there were 1,100 females employed; the appearance of the females working habitually in this heat (90°) seemed to me as a general rule perfectly to justify the expression of Mr. James Graham, the manager of Mr. Ewart's works, that no girls are fit to work in this heat longer than the regular hours.

4781. But you did not ask any of the girls about it?—As I said before, with regard to the employment of females in stoves, the question for legislation seemed to me to be made out upon principle, by what I had seen in Lancashire and the west of Scotland, and therefore it was less necessary, considering the small number of females employed in Ireland and in the east of Scotland, that I should take further evidence upon the subject.

4782. I will only trouble you with one more point, and that is with reference to the last paragraph in your Report; at page 31, you say: "In the 'making-up,' rooms, called in Ireland 'lapping' rooms, were attached to the bleach or dye-works; very few females or boys are employed; the 'making-up' is, in many instances, performed at a separate establishment in the neighbouring town; where it makes a part of the premises on which steam-power is employed it will come under the regulations as to the labour of females and boys of the proposed Bill." Do you think there is any good reason why boys should be precluded from working in an Irish lapping-room after a certain hour, and permit the work in a lapping-room at Manchester; you are aware that a lapping-room is a warehouse, are you not?—Yes.

4783. Do you think there should be a prohibition for labour in an Irish lapping-room or warehouse, and no such prohibition should be extended to London, or Manchester, Bristol, or any other place?—I understand the distinction to be where there is the labour of females and boys.

4784. I am speaking of boys; you will have it in evidence there are few females?—Yes, employed as against steam-power; there legislation applies in the lapping-room in London and elsewhere; they are not working against steam-power, as I understand.

4785. Are they working against steam-power in Ireland anywhere, or even in connexion with it?—Where the lapping-rooms are in connexion with any other part of the same establishment as a bleach and dye works, I apprehend they may be said to be working against steam-power, because, if you produce in a bleach work a certain quantity of goods by your steam-power in 24 hours, those goods come in the regular course to the lapping-rooms to be prepared for the market, and therefore there is a direct action of steam-power upon the employment in the lapping-room, as I understand.

4786. Did you make any inquiry into this?—I remember being struck with that fact in one of the bleach works in Ireland, which occurs to me at this moment.

4787. Which one was that?—I do not remember the name of it; if I had been examined

examined shortly after the inquiry, I should have been able to satisfy the honourable Member upon this and many other points.

4788. When you called at my place at Kiddy and saw my son, John Kirk, did he not show you the lapping-rooms?—I cannot remember whether he did or not.

4789. Because if he had he would have shown you the way of working against steam-power, and you would have seen a large quantity of goods lying piled up in the warehouse waiting for orders?—I can conceive that very well to be the case if there had been a period of slack trade.

4790. But slack trade or not, we must have stopped?—Of course I cannot pretend to contradict the honourable Member on a matter within his own cognizance; all I can say is, that in one work I remember distinctly the person of whom I did ask that question, and they pointed out to me the way in which the thing worked.

4791. *Chairman.*] I understood you to say, that your custom was to read over to the different gentlemen with whom you had these conversations that which you had taken as the result of them, and invite them to express an opinion upon the summary which you had made of those conversations?—Yes.

4792. Do you suppose you did that with regard to Mr. Alexander Hunter?—I should imagine I either did that, or that I repeated what I was writing, what he had said to me, in order that he might be sure I was taking it down correctly.

4793. Will you turn to Question 903, at page 77, and see at the end of that question these words: "These remarks embody my opinion upon the subject;" did you suppose that those words were made use of by Mr. Hunter after you had read to him the little statement which precedes it?—Now that your Lordship has directed my attention to those words, I have not the slightest doubt but that I had either read it to him or directed his attention to what I had been writing; and that in answer to a question as to whether those remarks did embody his opinions upon the subject, he stated that they did.

4794. Had you any complaint from Mr. Hunter of the way in which you reported his conversation?—Not a word, either from Mr. Hunter or any other gentleman whose evidence I took, with the exception of Dr. Boase, and he wrote to me shortly after the report was published a very friendly note, saying, to the best of my recollection, that I had misrepresented him in one point, which was that I had stated that we avoided as much as possible any over-hours, and that it very seldom happens, and never with any but men. To the best of my recollection, for I did not preserve the letter, Dr. Boase said that was a little too strong, and admitted that occasionally they did work over-hours, and that at the time the Bill was before Parliament, my impression was, that I forwarded his letter with one of my own, to one of the Members who had charge of the Bill, requesting that if the occasion arose he would qualify that statement with regard to Dr. Boase; that is the only communication I had, that I am aware of, from any gentleman or other person whose evidence I took, either in Scotland or Ireland; and I was very sorry to see it stated in the House of Commons by the honourable Member, Mr. Baxter, that he considered my report one-sided and unfair; I should be very sorry to be fairly open to such a remark.

4795. Then the Committee are to understand that from your previous experience in conducting inquiries entrusted to you by the Government, that you are of opinion that inquiries are better conducted according to the plan you have described to this Committee, than by putting formal questions?—That is my opinion.

4796. Are you aware whether that opinion is shared by other gentlemen who have had from time to time to conduct analogous inquiries?—I feel confident it is shared by the whole of the school inspectors; I do not remember at present that it is at all the practice of Government Commissioners to add the questions to the evidence which they take in the course of their inquiries.

4797. I will call your attention to the evidence given by Mr. Richardson the other day, referring to page 30 of your Report: "In the case of Mr. Richardson's works, however, it will be seen by that gentleman's statement to me (3911), that he had already made arrangements, by which he would not henceforward have any occasion for employing any of his people over-hours, and would not consequently be affected by any Act that may be passed upon this subject; and as regards the other employers alluded to, the same remark is applicable, in so far that they stated that, without inconvenience to themselves, they would be able to take measures which would prevent night-work or over-time for females or boys in future." You observe there, that you make use of the expression "of his people."

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Then, if you will refer to page 74 of the evidence, at question 911, to which you refer in this statement in the report, you will see Mr. Richardson's statement is, that his people "on such occasions work over-time up to eight or nine o'clock, from three to five consecutive days during a month or six weeks; this depends upon the length and severity of the previous winter; but, although the last winter was both long and severe, we have made arrangements as will prevent the necessity of our working the females over-hours at all for the future." Perhaps you will explain the discrepancy which appears between the statement in the report and the paragraph in Mr. Richardson's evidence upon which the statement in the report is founded?—I am to state the cause of the discrepancy; I think it very likely that the word "people" in my report was a mistake for "females" in the evidence.

4798. Mr. *Turner*.] I wish to ask you a few questions with regard to your examination the other day as to the Lancashire and Cheshire cases; I understand you to say that you first went to the committee of operatives presiding in Lancashire; had you at that time had any communication with the masters, or were you first instructed in what you call the plaintiffs' case?—I think I had some slight communication with one or two of the masters, but not to any great extent.

4799. You were asked the other day whether the delegates were working bleachers, and you answered "Yes." Do you mean that they were at that time employed in bleaching works?—To the best of my recollection they were all, with one or two exceptions, at that time employed in bleaching-works; that exception was John Waring, who was the paid agent of the men, but who had been employed for a great many years.

4800. Were not both the Warings and Mr. Pearce living upon the agitation which they kept alive out of the industry of others?—I think that is hardly a fair mode of putting the question, if I may be allowed to say so; I do not think it is fair to impute to men who are struggling on behalf of their brethren in trade, that they are living upon the agitation.

4801. But is it the fact that they were living out of the industry of others, and not working themselves?—They were certainly employed by the operatives; but I think, in using the word "agitation," the honourable Member imputes to them indirect motives beyond a fair investigation of the question.

4802. Was there not some agitation?—I know nothing about that; I was not down in the country before that; I am not at all aware of any of their proceedings whatever.

4803. Do I understand you to say you had not any previous knowledge of bleaching works, and had never visited any since the date of your report?—Certainly.

4804. Did not you visit the Lancashire and Cheshire bleaching works early in 1855?—Yes.

4805. I think I understood that you had obtained from the delegates a list of the different works which it was desirable for you to visit, in order to verify the facts which the delegates stated, and also a list of 55 works from Mr. Ainsworth, and that you selected 17 which you visited out of that list, with reference to the list of delegates?—Not at all.

4806. Having found the 17 works sufficient out of Mr. Ainsworth's list, how came you to visit 10 others not upon that list?—Mr. Ainsworth, the chairman of the association, gave me a list of works, principally in the neighbourhood of Bolton; and I ascertained from the delegates, what I was not aware of before, that there were many bleaching works that Mr. Ainsworth had omitted; I accordingly visited those, and, without imputing any indirect motives to Mr. Ainsworth and the members of the committee of bleachers, I may mention the simple fact, that the evidence afforded by the bleaching works in the neighbourhood of Manchester, which I think I may say was almost conclusive against their own impressions and their own convictions, and in favour of the opinion of the men, and for that reason, having had them pointed out, I visited them; had I not had them pointed out by the men, and if I had relied entirely upon the evidence of the masters, I should not have been aware of the existence of a large body of works, the evidence furnished by which contradicted the evidence of the masters.

4807. Did you visit more than one set of works in Cheshire; if so, how many?—I do not know what the division of the county is between Lancashire and Cheshire; I visited those works in the immediate neighbourhood of Manchester which I have referred to.

4808. Was

4808. Was not every facility afforded you by the masters in visiting the works both in Lancashire and Cheshire?—Certainly.

4809. Had you interviews from time to time between the various visits that you paid to the Lancashire and Cheshire bleach works, with Waring, Pearce, and other of the delegates?—Frequently.

4810. Frequently, during those visits?—Yes.

4811. Did you from time to time communicate to them the evidence you had taken at the works you visited, and the remarks of the masters?—Yes.

4812. Did you communicate to Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Hardcastle, or any member of the committee of master bleachers, the result of your investigation, when completed, in that district?—I found, after a meeting that I had with the masters, that they were not inclined to enter upon the question of legislation with me in the friendly spirit in which, apparently, they began; and having communicated to them the whole of the evidence of the delegates, and having received from them, through Mr. Ainsworth, the evidence back again, with no remark impugning it to any amount, I did not think it necessary to communicate to the body of the masters the rest of the evidence that I took as the inquiry proceeded; I did not think, from the result of the meeting that I had with them by their own request, that any further communication with them would lead to any satisfactory result. They asked me to meet them in a friendly spirit to discuss the point of legislation; I found, when we were together, that there was a disposition to take a different ground altogether from that which they had previously taken with me, and to dispute the necessity for legislation altogether; from that time I did not feel called upon to communicate personally again with the committee of masters.

4813. Were you not requested to do so as a matter of courtesy, to enable them to reply or object to the statements of the delegates?—I do not remember it; I do not think I was; I had done, as I thought, my part fully in opening a friendly communication with them; we had come to the point of considering what legislation would be acceptable, and when at this meeting they were inclined to repudiate that position, I thought I had done all that in me lay, or that courtesy required, as to making any private communication to them.

4814. You say that both the masters and the workpeople were agreed in opinion that there ought to be some legislative interference, and you repeat that same opinion in answer 133, in your evidence the other day; how is that consistent with what you say in your report, namely, that Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Ainsworth are adverse to legislative interference?—And yet Mr. Hardcastle drew up, in his own handwriting, what he thought would be a satisfactory solution of the matter as regards legislation, and Mr. Ainsworth also discussed with me the same point, and Mr. Hardcastle sent that very paper, in my presence, to Mr. Ainsworth, to ask his opinion upon it; and although they said they were adverse to legislation, still the fact of their discussing legislation with me showed that, however adverse their own private opinion might be about it, they thought the time had come when legislation was necessary.

4815. Are not those two gentlemen the largest employers of labour in the Lancashire and Cheshire districts?—I believe they are two of the largest.

4816. Are not Messrs. Blair & Sons, and Messrs. Bright & Ridgway, and most of the masters mentioned by you as visited, also opposed to legislative interference?—When gentlemen met me to discuss what kind of Act should be brought in to regulate the employment of females and children in their works, I did not think that they were entitled to say that they were adverse to legislation, except as a matter of private opinion; they had come to the conclusion, that, on public grounds, legislation was impending, and I believe I may state that one or two of them were in favour of legislation.

4817. Did not almost all the master bleachers mention that the occasion for these long hours was becoming less frequent, and did not a number of the operatives of the short-time committee, whom you had examined, also admit this, and attribute it to the introduction of machinery?—The excessive hours may be becoming less frequent at this moment; I do not remember any evidence bearing precisely upon that point; but although it may be less frequent, I should imagine, from the tenor of the evidence, that there would be a continual liability to work these excessive hours if the demand required it.

4818. But do you not yourself believe that the introduction of machinery has a tendency to such a result?—I am not prepared to give an opinion upon that point.

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4819. You say that too much weight is attributed to the fact, that occasionally during the day intervals of rest occur in addition to the hours of meals; do you not find that it is almost universally agreed upon all hands, that such intermissions do take place to a considerable extent, besides the hours of meals?—Yes, such intermissions doubtless may take place more or less; but when young females and boys are employed for 12, 14, or 16 hours for many days together, I do not consider that these occasional intermissions alter very materially the state of the case.

4820. But when they do occur, is it not often from the breaking of machinery, the want of water, or some delay in some one department?—That may be so; the breakage of machinery is a thing which a manufacturer would be sorry to believe could occur very often.

4821. Is there not a considerable change and variation in the amount of work done in a large majority of these works, from three months to three months, not one uniform system at all pursued as to time?—Certainly; but at the same time the evidence shows that many of them go on for much more than three months together, working long hours.

4822. When you examined the master bleachers, which I suppose you did, was there a single one of them who did not speak of the variation in the amount of business which they were from time to time subjected to?—I have no doubt that most of them did; I will not say that a single one did not.

4823. Did not the merchants you examined also admit to you, at all events at that time, that such was the case?—I believe it was so.

4824. With respect to the physical sufferings of the workpeople, you say that you examined two or three medical men with regard to this; have you their evidence in your report?—Yes.

4825. Did not one of them, Mr. Robinson, say that the employment in bleaching works was not in itself an employment obnoxious to the health?—Yes; and that I should imagine applied to the labour of the men, and especially to the work in the bleaching part of the establishment, as contradistinguished from the making-up.

4826. You found the females principally employed in the finishing and packing-rooms, did you not?—Yes.

4827. Are not those rooms generally large and airy, and free from all floating particles and all noxious smells?—I have stated that in my report; and that, therefore, it is only the excessive hours which are objectionable, and not the place in which they work.

4828. But is there not a very striking contrast between the atmosphere and appearance of the rooms of those persons in bleaching works and those of any mill that you visited?—I do not know anything of mills; my knowledge is not sufficient to enable me to say.

4829. As to the majority of the persons employed in the English bleaching works, are they not generally respectable as a class; they describe themselves so, and as above mill-hands?—I am so little acquainted with that part of the country, that I am not qualified to pronounce an opinion upon it.

4830. Did not you observe many instances of boys and females employing their leisure in book-reading and sewing whilst waiting for work?—Yes.

4831. Are not the workpeople composed in fact of families rather than individuals; have they not almost all of them worked for many years in the same employment, and have you not learnt that their fathers and mothers did so before them?—I have heard that that is the case in several of the large works.

4832. Is not that a desirable state to exist in and to occupy?—Undoubtedly; but that leaves out of view entirely the possible fact, which is alleged to be also the real fact, namely, that a great number of females and boys are incapacitated by the length of hours keeping at the work; and, as the medical men say, it is only those who have the strongest constitutions who can stand it for any length of time.

4833. Is it a fact that churches have been built and schools provided for them, in many instances, at the expense of the masters, and rooms provided for them, and books and periodicals, whilst waiting for their work?—There are some most excellent and benevolent masters among the owners of bleach-works, who have exerted themselves most creditably for the intellectual and religious improvement of their workpeople.

4834. You observed just now that it was open to the observation that none but those possessed of healthy constitutions could stand the long hours; do you mean

mean it to be inferred from that, that the bleach-works have the pick of the hands in these districts?—I think the inference is, that in the terms of the question none but persons of healthy constitution can long stand that kind of work in the finishing department.

4835. But are not the operatives in bleach-works generally of a healthy appearance?—I have given several answers upon that point, and have nothing more to add to what I have stated on the subject.

4836. You said, in one answer to Mr. Cobbett (Question 54) that you observed a considerable number of persons whose appearance indicated their having been subject to overwork; do you remember at which works in Lancashire or Cheshire that occurred?—If I had been asked that question two years ago, I have no doubt I should have been able to specify the works; at present I am unable to do so.

4837. Did you interrogate any of the girls or women in dye-works and packing-rooms where short hours were said to be worked?—I have no doubt I did.

4838. You have not been, I think you said, at numerous mills and factories in these districts to state the difference between one set of hands and another?—No.

4839. Were the complaints that you heard especially of sore feet?—I mentioned the various complaints which the females laboured under.

4840. Was it never stated to you that this wore off after a little time, and was much alleviated by wearing shoes, instead of the heavy clogs which are almost universally worn by the females in these works?—I do not remember; but it is quite conceivable; it may be so; I merely mentioned the fact that I found a great many persons so suffering.

4841. By the shortening the hours as proposed, from six in the morning to six in the evening, would it have the effect, in your opinion, of inducing the masters to dispense with the labour of females and young persons; Mr. Kirk has told us that it would in his case; I want to have your opinion?—I do not think that an opinion of mine upon a matter of that kind would be of much value.

4842. Then you cannot give an opinion whether it is likely to have the effect of decreasing the number of hands employed in bleaching works?—That is a question to which you will obtain much more satisfactory answers from persons more conversant with the locality.

4843. Did you in your visits, because it is connected a good deal with this subject, ever inspect the establishments of any of the merchants whose evidence you took?—I have been shown some of the warehouses of the large merchants in Manchester; but by the term "inspecting"——

4844. You saw the nature of the work carried on?—Yes.

4845. Had you an opportunity of knowing that in many of those establishments callendering, packing and finishing are carried on much in the same way as at bleaching works?—Yes.

4846. Would you propose to put them, then, under similar regulations, whether they bleach or not?—With all due submission, that is a question more for Parliament than myself; my inquiries were confined to the bleaching works.

4847. But you do know that these works are carried on, and of course you must have a similar opinion with regard to them as with regard to similar establishments in bleach-works?—I was not instructed to inquire as to the health and employment of females and boys, or whether there were any females and boys employed in such establishments.

4848. In your opinion, seeing that your commission extended only to bleaching works, and that you extended your inquiry to dyeing and finishing, would it be fair to legislate for calendering and packing only, when carried on in connexion with bleaching works, and not in any other places?—I conceive it very possible that anomalies of that kind may exist in that part of the country where manufacturing operations are so extensive; my business was to inquire particularly with reference to the bleaching works, and those works immediately connected with them.

4849. Would it be sufficient, to satisfy what you believe to be the necessity for legislation, to extend the proposed Bill for bleaching, dyeing, finishing and packing-up, only where carried on in connexion with bleaching works, or would it not be necessary to apply the same law to them separately wherever they are carried on?—If my instructions had directed me to make that inquiry, I should have endeavoured to do so to the best of my power, but they did not.

4850. When you took the merchants' evidence, did you read to any of them the

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evidence you had taken, or did you impart to them the result of such evidence before taking down their answers?—Invariably.

4851. Did you hold yourself as commissioned to inquire into the management of bleaching works, or did you explain that you were extending your inquiry to the processes of bleaching, dyeing, finishing, calendering and packing, wherever carried on, or confine yourself only to the bleaching works?—I found that it was impossible to limit the inquiry to what is, *ex bitermino*, a bleach-work, because so many other processes are immediately connected with it; but I did not extend my inquiry beyond what was in immediate connexion with bleaching; bleaching, dyeing and finishing going on so often in the same premises.

4852. I think I understood you to say that you did read over to the merchants their evidence as written down by yourself?—I not only read it over, but in many cases it was corrected.

4853. Did you do so to Mr. John Pender, whose is, perhaps, the largest packing and finishing establishment connected with a warehouse?—I remember, with regard to that evidence (Question 35), that I went twice to this gentleman's warehouse, the second time for the purpose of submitting to Mr. Pender the evidence that he had previously given me; he was absent, and I read it over to Mr. Cowan; and in the last paragraph of that evidence, I said, "Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan consider," and I gave it as the evidence of Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan.

4854. In your opinion, are not the bleachers entirely dependent on the merchants for the supply of the material on which they have to operate?—Certainly.

4855. Is not the requirement of a merchant dependent on the state of the market and his orders?—Yes.

4856. Does he not frequently put off his orders until the last possible moment for the convenience of buying, or the state of the market?—I think that any answer that I shall give to any single question of that nature would convey a wrong impression, unless at the same time I was to add the whole of the evidence that I have given with respect to the dealings and the arrangements made by the merchant and the bleacher, to which I would respectfully refer.

4857. But has it not come within your experience that the merchant very frequently presses the bleacher to do his work in so short a space of time as to lead necessarily to his occasionally over-working?—That has been the case, no doubt; but the whole point is as to whether it is necessary, and the evidence of the merchants is that it is not.

4858. Mr. *Crook*.] With regard to long hours of labour, do you consider it at all desirable that women and children should work as at present 14 or 16 hours in the day, or in the night?—Certainly.

4859. It is not a desirable thing under any circumstances?—Certainly not.

4860. It cannot be defended as consistent with the health and morals of women and children?—I think not.

4861. Granting that state of things to be an evil, is it practicable at all to remedy that evil by one Act; would you attempt to remedy the evil in the case of dress-makers, or of any warehouses in Manchester, or any place not comprehended in this Bill, or do you think it would be a sensible plan to bring in a Bill to remedy this state of things all at once?—No.

4862. Do you think it more sensible to grapple with one part of the subject, to take a palpable evil which you can bring within certain limits, such as the Factory Act is, or such as the Bleaching Works now is?—Certainly.

4863. Do you think it a more practical mode of remedying the evil?—Certainly.

4864. To act upon the bringing forward of such a measure would entirely frustrate the benevolent object?—I think so.

4865. With regard to your inquiries in Lancashire; before you went down to Lancashire, were you led to suppose that there was any evil of that nature existing, that is to say, the excessive employment of women and children; had your mind been influenced at all by the cause of inquiry?—I do not believe I was aware of the fact.

4866. You were not aware that these long hours were employed?—I knew nothing about the bleaching population, and I never saw a bleaching work.

4867. You had not heard as to whether long hours were customary, and whether

whether women and children were employed in the night?—I do not think I had any knowledge whatever of it.

4868. Was not the theory of your course more to inquire whether there was any evil first, and then to find out whether there was a remedy afterwards?—Certainly.

4869. And therefore you thought it more sensible to inquire what the nature of the evil was, before inquiring what was to be the remedy?—Undoubtedly.

4870. Are you aware that the factory masters and bleaching masters have their agents about the Houses of Parliament, or that they have put paid agents at the door of the House of Commons, and even in this very room; and that you can hardly move about the House without seeing the agents of the bleaching and factory masters?—I have understood that that is so, and I may say I have seen some.

4871. Do you think there is anything less honourable in the workpeople employing an agent than the masters?—Not at all.

4872. It is quite as honourable?—Quite.

4873. Do you think it less honourable either to the agent or the parties interested to employ an agent?—Not at all.

4874. You think that they stand on a perfect equality with the masters and their agents?—Perfectly, in my opinion.

4875. Do you not consider it very ungenerous to insinuate motives and imputations on the part of one party against the other, that are altogether unfounded in fact?—For my own part, I should most studiously abstain from doing anything of the sort.

4876. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] The result of your inquiry has been, I believe, to find that it is injurious to persons who work in these hot stoves, that that is the principal injury?—In the west of Scotland.

4877. And all over the districts you visited in Ireland, Scotland, and France?—Not in the hot stoves only, but in the finishing rooms.

4878. You found it injurious to their health to work in the hot stoves?—My observation was, that a great number of the females employed in these hot stoves did look as if they were injuriously affected in their health by it.

4879. Have you any reason to suppose that the other operations in bleaching works are also injurious to health?—In the finishing rooms in Lancashire, although, as has been very properly said, the temperature is low, and there are no floating particles to affect the lungs, still the long hours of labour of young persons had evidently affected the health of many.

4880. Then it is the long hours that you fancy are injurious where the atmosphere is good?—Even where the atmosphere is good.

4881. Where it is cool, agreeable, and well ventilated?—Yes; and, together with the long hours, the other——

4882. Do you think it necessary to shorten the hours of labour, even where there is no sanitary necessity for it?—Yes, in consequence of the length of the hours.

4883. Did you question any of the persons that were not working in stoves, but were working in bleaching works, about their objection to the length of the hours?—Yes, I did.

4884. What was the result of your inquiry?—The general impression left upon my mind was, that the long hours were very much objected to by a considerable number of the other workpeople, although they did not themselves work either in the hot stoves or lapping rooms.

4885. Did you make any inquiry of those persons whether they had taken any means to relieve themselves from working those long hours?—In the west of Scotland they had, by an organisation among themselves, and by inducing the masters to meet with them and discuss the matter; that had to a certain extent produced an alleviation of those hours for a time.

4886. The masters were a party to this?—Yes, and a great number of them most willing parties.

4887. But ultimately that arrangement fell through?—Yes.

4888. Did you find that the persons left those works where these long hours prevailed, and went to some other employment?—I cannot charge my memory with the fact.

4889. Then your opinion is, from your investigation, that the hours of labour in all bleachingworks should be limited to ten, according to the Bill?—Yes.

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4890. Do you consider the same description of labour that is carried on in bleaching works in a good atmosphere, more injurious to health than if carried on in a private dwelling?—Not in what is properly speaking a bleach-work, because a great deal of the work in a bleach-work proper is very much in the air; the complaints that I heard about the effects of the employment in the bleaching part of it has reference to the boys being frequently wetted, and that injurious results followed.

4891. And the women the same?—Yes.

4892. This Act I see, clause 5, exempts private dwellings altogether from its operation?—Yes.

4893. I believe in large washing establishments the custom is, that the women get up at an early hour, three or four o'clock on a washing day, so as to make a long day of it; do you suppose it is equally injurious to them working those long hours in a common washing-house with the steam arising from the tubs, as if they were doing the same operation in a bleach-work?—The inquiry had reference to young females and boys chiefly.

4894. Take girls of 18?—It is very possible that in a great number of domestic employments a great deal of work may be done injurious to the health of the persons so employed: but it is a question for the Legislature to determine, first of all the nature and extent of the grievance, and the possibility of remedying it.

4895. But you think that the injury to the health would be the same in both cases?—I dare say it might be, though the analogy is not complete; because as regards the bleaching works, there is another department, the hot stoves and the lapping-rooms.

4896. I am excluding the stoves; I much wish to confine my question to the other operations, to the operations that are perfectly healthful in a bleach-work?—I dare say that effects injurious to health may be produced in a private family, as in a bleach-work.

4897. In answer to a question you have said that it would be better to shorten the hours of labour of women and children, rather than one great measure which would give the whole of the women and children in the country the advantage of short hours?—If anybody would show it to be possible to protect any large class of females who are overworking in such a manner as to be injurious to their health, I dare say it would be a desirable thing to arrive at, but it is generally considered impracticable to extend legislation so as to reach domestic employments.

4898. You think it would be desirable, if it could be made practicable, to shorten the hours of labour to 10 hours a day?—That statement appears to me to be too broad; there are a great number of employments.

4899. Wherever it is possible?—No; because, although it might be possible, it might not be at all necessary; the employment might go on for more than 10 hours a day in many operations, public and private, without any injury.

4900. Then will you explain to me why that employment should not go on in the healthy departments of a bleach-work?—In what is a healthy department of a bleach-work for men, it is asserted, and I believe with truth, that boys are apt to suffer, and especially when the hours of work are very much prolonged; and, therefore, if an Act of Parliament is to be introduced to protect females and boys in one portion of a bleach-work, I do not see how you can very well exclude another portion, although the evil in the latter might not be so great as in the former.

4901. Should you not fancy it possible to increase the stoves so much in the bleach-works that they would do the whole work within 10 hours?—I know so little about the operation that I cannot answer that question.

4902. Should you not suppose, from your knowledge of affairs generally, that that could be done?—I should think it could be done.

4903. Then would it not be amply sufficient for the purpose of this Act, that the Act should only extend to the processes which are found injurious to health?—I apprehend that even what the Honourable Member would call a process not injurious to health, is injurious to the health of a certain number of persons, though not of so many as the other processes.

4904. Then, would it not be more natural that that certain number should leave those works and seek work elsewhere, which is not injurious to their health, than that the whole system of the country should be disturbed for the sake of a few?—That is a question for the Legislature rather than me.

4905. I believe

4905. I believe you would say that it would be better that they should leave it?—I am not prepared to say.

4906. Then you fancy that three or four delicate people being in a work should be a reason for the whole of the people in that work ceasing to work 10 hours a day?—It is not a question of three or four people in one work; I am speaking of the aggregate.

4907. Your opinion is that, in a sanitary point of view, certain operations in bleach-works are injurious to women and children?—Yes.

4908. That there are operations which are not injurious?—Yes.

4909. Those operations which are not injurious to the health in a bleach-work are allowed by this Act to be carried on in a private house?—Yes.

4910. Is there any reason, in your opinion, why, as they are allowed to be carried on in private houses, they should not be allowed to be carried on in bleach works?—That depends upon how far you would carry out legislation; but I think there is a fallacy in what you put; you assume that none of the persons employed in the bleaching part of the operation are injuriously affected in their health; it is asserted that the boys are; and that, taking the bleach-works generally, there are a great number of boys employed in what to men is a healthy occupation, and that the boys are continually being exposed to wet and to dry heat, and are constantly liable to injury in their health.

4911. Is it your experience that boys exposed to alternations of wet, dry, heat, and cold in a bleach-work are more injured than by working on a farm, exposed to every alternation of heat, cold, wet, and dry?—I can conceive the condition of things very different as regards farm labour and those in bleach-works: there is a dampness about a bleach-work, and a cold given off, which is very different from that which would be found in the open air, frequent draughts. I can conceive it quite possible that a boy might lose his health in a bleach-work, and at the same time be able to stand agricultural work, exposed to all the vicissitudes of weather.

4912. You speak of extending legislation to such and such things; is it not possible to curtail legislation to that portion of a work where legislation is really necessary?—I cannot say that it is not possible; it is for those who think it is possible to show that it is possible, without letting in incidental evils and evasions of an Act.

4913. Supposing that the stoves were proved to be positively injurious to health, and that an Act was brought in to force all persons who have works that have stoves to shut those stoves at six o'clock at night?—I do not think that would do, because a great deal of the work that is injurious to health is in what are called the finishing-rooms, where the stoves are not, or in the lapping-rooms.

4914. Do you suppose this is more injurious to health than a boy apprenticed to a tailor?—I do not know; I never saw a boy apprenticed to a tailor.

4915. Do you suppose that a boy walking about on his feet, and moving about his feet, is likely to have his health more injured than a boy sitting cross-legged for 10, 12 or 14 hours a day?—I have not the means of drawing any comparison between them.

4916. But I am asking merely your opinion; I suppose you think a tailor's boy would be quite as liable to injure his health as a boy moving about?—As a matter of opinion, I should say that he was not as liable, because these boys employed in the lapping-rooms at the bleach works go about a great deal on their legs, and get very tired.

4917. Mr. *Kirk*.] There is one class of employment in this city which comes almost under the observation of everybody, which I will just ask a question or two about; you are aware that a very large number of females, the parties mostly interested in this inquiry, are employed in gin palaces, and as barmaids, and as attendants in cigar shops, every day in the week, Sundays included?—Yes.

4918. Would it be, do you think, well that the hours of those persons should be regulated?—As far as I understand, the principle hitherto followed in legislating for the protection of the health of females and boys, has not attempted to deal with domestic employments or individual interests; it has not yet, as far as I am aware, extended beyond large establishments where numbers of people are collected together, and upon whom the legislature can operate by means of paid agents; if you were to extend the principle to domestic matters, so as to interfere with what goes on in a private house, you would have an army of inspectors and agents, and, in fact, your legislation would be impracticable.

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4919. I am not speaking of private houses, I specially guarded my inquiry with respect to public-houses; I call any gin-shop a public-house licensed by Government, and therefore known by the Government, and recognised by the Government; I applied it to that, and that only?—If I am asked as a matter of opinion, all I can say is that it seems to me that you cannot distinguish between such a house and any other house licensed, such as a grocer's shop, or a tobacconist's, and, therefore, if you apply the same argument to a public-house, you must go further; and if you once admit the principle, there is no reason why you should not protect the washerwomen to whom an honourable Member has just referred.

4920. I carefully excluded everything but public-houses, and I thought I asked you a very simple question, and I had hoped for a candid and straightforward answer, and I expect it from you; whether you do not think that legislation would be necessary there?—I can only repeat my previous answer, which I believe was to the point, as far as I am able.

4921. I was not aware that you had given me an answer; you answered me with reference to domestic houses; I inquire with reference to public-houses?—On the ground that a public-house is licensed, and, therefore, to a certain extent under the inspection of the Government, I say that if that is admitted, you might apply it to grocers; I think that it would be a vicious principle, because it would entrench on domestic employments.

4922. Domestic employments in a public-house; the very term is "public?"—It seems to me that there is that distinction; it is merely a house.

4923. Is there not another reason, that is, that the parties are employed not merely on six days of the week, from six in the morning till 12 or one the next morning, but that they are employed also on the Sunday one-third of the day; should not that be a good reason for a philanthropist?—On grounds of public morality you interfere to prevent public-houses of that description being open more than a certain number of hours, but not on the ground of excess of work; and I think if you take the ground of excess of work you cannot stop with the public-houses; you admit a principle which would carry you into every house where you thought a boy or a girl worked over-hours.

4924. How would it do, supposing you began in that way; how would you manage about those parties here that are constantly employed every night, the great purveyors to the London markets?—When a case is made out for inquiry, I shall be very glad to consider it; at present I am really unacquainted with anything of the sort.

4925. Do you mean to say that you are not aware that parties carry provisions to Covent-garden and other markets during the hours of the night?—I know the fact that Covent-garden is supplied, and that a great deal of labour is necessary in the night for that purpose; but I think that any attempt to interfere with it would be going beyond the principle that has hitherto guided legislation with regard to this subject.

4926. Mr. *Turner*.] You explained, in answer to a question which I put to you, that you did not choose to confer any further with the masters, because some of them you found were inclined to repudiate what they had stated to you before?—Yes, one of them.

4927. That is rather a sweeping reflection on a number of respectable masters; have you any objection to say to whom your remark applies?—My remark applies more particularly to Mr. Hardcastle; but at the same time there were present at that meeting Mr. Ainsworth and three or four other bleaching masters, whose names I do not at present remember.

4928. Have you a copy of what Mr. Hardcastle wrote, which you call his opinion of what legislation ought to be?—It is given in the evidence.

4929. Did Mr. Hardcastle remonstrate with you, and tell you that you had put words into his mouth which he had never used?—Never.

4930. He never did?—I have not the slightest recollection that he did anything of the kind.

4931. I do not put the question without having ground for doing so; was it not after you had sent him a printed copy of what you called his evidence, that he made that remonstrance?—I wish to be clearly understood with regard to this proceeding; Mr. Hardcastle, in his office, proposed to me a certain basis of legislation; that is to say, he said he thought that such and such a measure would be satisfactory: he drew that up in his own handwriting, gave me a copy of it, or allowed me to take a copy of it, and send it to Mr. Ainsworth; Mr. Ainsworth made

made some objection to it; I met the masters some time afterwards, in order, as I believed, to discuss these points, as to what legislation would be unobjectionable to them; and when I met the masters on that occasion, I found that Mr. Hardcastle was disposed to repudiate that proposition which he had drawn up. I felt very indignant upon that occasion, and I told him that as I had the original in my possession, I should publish it. The discussion did not last long. I found that the masters were not inclined to entertain the question of the exact amount of legislation with me, and I very soon left.

4932. Did he not complain that you had ignored the existence of his works, called the Bradshawworks, altogether?—I do not remember that he did, and certainly I did not ignore them because I went over his large works with him, and from all that I heard from him, and from what I saw upon the spot, full in my mind, I drew up my report.

4933. I am afraid there was some little difference of feeling between you and Mr. Hardcastle; had he not some reason to complain of some letter of introduction that you had to him, which you retained for many weeks without delivering?—I really do not remember anything of the kind; I do not believe I ever had a letter of introduction to him, that I am aware of.

4934. Did not Mr. Hardcastle produce a letter of introduction of yours from a Liverpool house to a Lancashire master bleacher, and ask why this had been asked for by you, and why you had kept that letter in your possession six or eight weeks before delivering it?—I had not the slightest recollection of anything of the kind, and I do not believe that any such occurrence took place; I had not the slightest remembrance of it; I believe it is entirely without foundation. May I be allowed just to refer to one paragraph in my Report, at page 34, section 10; and I shall feel obliged if I may be permitted to put this on record, in consequence of some evidence that I heard given relative to the necessity of protecting the linen bleach-works, or rather of giving an opportunity to the linen bleach-works to work over-time upon occasions arising from the emergency of weather:—"To the suggestions embodied in the portion of the Report relating to England (pp. 18 to 20), there is another provision which the circumstances of the linen and linen-yarn bleach-works imperatively require. In consequence of so large a portion of these processes going on in the open air, and their goods being exposed for long periods upon the grass, it will be necessary, as explained in the evidence of Dr. Boase, M.D. (p. 84), and several other gentlemen (pp. 85, 86), to enable them, on emergencies arising from the state of the weather, to employ the labour of females and boys, after the hours above described. It appears, from the concurrent testimony of those gentlemen, that the occasion will not be likely to arise more than a dozen times in the year; that a record of the necessity, when it arises, could be easily kept in a book at the office, and be shown to an inspector, when required; and that, from the nature of the case, no abuse would be likely to arise therefrom."

4935. What comment do you wish to make upon that?—Merely to state that that point had not escaped my attention, and that I was desirous that they should have the opportunity of making up for time lost in consequence of floods, or frost, or rain, and breakage of machinery.

4936. Mr. *Davison.*] Proof of those facts would lie upon the bleacher; he would be subject to a penalty for his rate of hours, unless he came within the exception you suggest?—I am not sure that that is so.

4937. Are you aware that in the winter those exceptions would occur daily?—According to my understanding, they would not occur daily; they would occasionally occur.

4938. Then the inspector could have the leading merchant perpetually summoned; you do not seem to know from your own actual knowledge the operation of bleaching, except so far as it has been detailed: suppose it was the case that the bleacher would be obliged to give evidence to the inspector on those occasions when he kept them any time beyond the prescribed hours?—He would enter into a book the occasions of over-work.

4939. Would you make that book evidence?—No; I should presume that a Government inspector would be easily satisfied with the evidence of one of the superior workmen or the master, because there would be plenty of persons to contradict him if the evidence brought before him was not true.

4940. Do not interruptions occur in winter from floods very frequently?—In certain localities.

4941. In Ireland?—It may occur.

4942. And

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4942. And frost, for instance, occurring every day in winter?—Yes.

4943. These frosts and these floods necessarily occasion interruptions, as we have it in evidence, to the bleaching processes?—Yes.

4944. Then I think I may assume, and I think you are justified in assuming, that these interruptions will be frequent in winter?—Yes.

4945. Then if it rested entirely with the inspector to call for evidence, would not the consequence be an interruption to the process almost weekly?—I do not think, practically, it would be found that any inspector would be likely to give any such unreasonable trouble.

4946. Mr. *Dalgleish.*] You say you would give a certain license to linen bleachers; is there any reason why the same license should not be extended to bleachers in cotton?—I think the evidence I collected showed that it would be very possible to arrange the work in bleach-works, so that they could stop.

4947. You say you would extend a certain license to the linen bleachers?—Yes.

4948. I want to know why linen should be put in a different position to cotton, under the same circumstances?—Because the liability to interruptions from the weather are very different from those.

4949. The breakage of machinery or any stoppage?—I say, as regards cotton bleach-works, there should be a power for making up time lost by breakage of machinery; but as regards anything else, the evidence seemed to be to show that the process can be so arranged as to enable a bleacher to stop within a few minutes, and there would be no necessity for keeping boys under age to work over-time.

SECOND

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
28 *July* 1857.

211—Sess. 2.

Veneris, 15° *die Maii*, 1857.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Young Persons in the Bleaching and Dyeing Establishments in England, Scotland and Ireland; and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to those Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment; and to report their Observations thereupon to The House.

Lunæ, 18° *die Maii*, 1857.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Butt.	Mr. Clark.
Lord John Manners.	Mr. Cheetham.
Viscount Goderich.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Massey.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Fergus.	Mr. Packe.

Ordered, That the Committee have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Mercurii, 20° *die Maii*, 1857.

Ordered, That Mr. Davison be added to the Committee.

Jovis, 25° *die Junii*, 1857.

Ordered, That Viscount Goderich be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Crook be added thereto.

Ordered, That Mr. Fergus be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Dalgleish be added thereto.

Lunæ, 6° *die Julii*, 1857.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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SECOND REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Young Persons in the BLEACHING and DYEING ESTABLISHMENTS in England, Scotland and Ireland; and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to these Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment; and to Report their Observations thereupon to The House; and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to The House:——

HAVE agreed to make a Second Report to the House of the Minutes of Evidence taken before them; and, finding themselves unable to complete the inquiry committed to them, to recommend that the Committee be re-appointed at the commencement of the next Session of Parliament.

28 *July* 1857.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Jovis, 28° die Maii, 1857.

The Committee met.

Mr. Butt.	Viscount Goderich.
Lord J. Manners.	Mr. Baxter.
Lord Naas.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Clark.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cobbett.	

Mr. *Butt* was called to the Chair.

Days of Meeting Tuesdays and Fridays, at Twelve.

[Adjourned to Friday, 5th June, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 5° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Turner.
Lord Goderich.	Mr. Davison.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Wise.

A letter was read from the Chairman, stating that he was unavoidably detained in Dublin.

Lord *John Manners* was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. *Tremenheere.*

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 9° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Butt, in the Chair.

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Wise (Ayshford).
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Packe.

Mr. *John Marshall Robinson,* F. R. S., Mr. *Thomas Blackledge Garstang,* and Mr. *John Warring,* examined.

Veneris, 12° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Davison.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Wise.	Mr. Clark.
Mr. Turner.	Mr. Butt.

Lord *John Manners* was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. *Haywood,* Mr. *H. Waring,* Mr. *T. Miller* and Mr. *Wright Mather.*

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 15° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Butt, in the Chair.

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Turner.	Mr. Packe.
Lord Naas.	Mr. Clark.
Mr. Wise.	Lord Goderich.
Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Kirk.	

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee examined the Rev. *W. Milton*, Mr. *Stewart Fletcher*, and Mr. *Samuel Price*.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 19° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Butt.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Davison.
Mr. Packe.	Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Clark.	

Lord *John Manners* was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. *Barbour*, Mr. *W. Scott*, Mr. *Slagg*, Mr. *Sagur*, and Mr. *Crook*, a Member of the House.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 23° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Fergus.
Mr. Davison.	

In the absence of Mr. *Butt*, Lord *John Manners* was called to the Chair.

Mr. *Bowley*, Mr. *T. Betts*, Mr. *John Shelbourne*, Mr. *T. F. Brownbill*, and Mr. *James Gilbroy*, examined.

Room cleared, and Committee deliberated as to what evidence it might be advisable to take in the present state of the Question.

Resolved, That the Evidence in favour of the Bill is concluded as regards England, but the Committee are prepared to hear further evidence from Scotland.

The Committee deliberated as to their next day of meeting.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 29° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Turner.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Baxter.

Lord *John Manners* was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. *Richmond*, the Rev. *J. Lockure*, Mr. *Leck*, Mr. *Thompson*, Mr. *Drimminie*, Mr. *H. Boase*, and Mr. *James Robertson*.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 30° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Wise.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Crook.
Mr. Davison.	

The Committee examined Mr. *Richardson*, a Member of the House, Mr. *M'Comb*, Mr. *T. O'Brien*, Mr. *Kelso*, Mr. *Keeper*, Mr. *Bell*, Mr. *Mackinley*, and Mr. *Henchy*.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 3° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.	Mr. Davison.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Turner.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Dalgleish.

The Committee examined Mr. *Kirk*, a Member of the House, and Mr. *Tremenheere*.

[Adjourned to Monday, at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 6° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Clark.	Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Crook.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Turner.	

The Committee examined Mr. *Harrison*, Mr. *Barton*, Mr. *Allcock*, Mr. *Keely*, and Mr. *Hardcastle*.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 7° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair; and,

Mr. PACKE in the Chair.

Mr. Turner.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Cobbett.
Lord Naas.	Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Crook.	

The Committee examined Mr. *Hardcastle* and Mr. *Blair*.

[Adjourned to Monday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 10° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.	Mr. Davison.
Mr. Wise.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Cobbett.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Turner.	

The Committee examined Mr. *H. Ripley*.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 21st, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 21° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Turner.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Butt.	Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Wise.	

Mr. *Stephen Blair*, Mr. *John Slater* and Mr. *Charles Morris* examined.

[Adjourned till Twelve o'clock on Friday.

Veneris, 24° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Turner.	Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Kirk.	

The Committee examined Mr. *Blair*, Mr. *Rylands*, Rev. *Thomas Packer*, Mr. *Bancroft*, Mr. *Marsland* and Mr. *Southworth*.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 28° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Dalgleish.	Mr. Butt.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Crook.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Wise.

The Committee examined Mr. *M'Adam*, Mr. *Pender*, Mr. *Barton* and Mr. *Slater*.

The Committee at the close of the Evidence deliberated, and agreed to Report the Evidence to The House; and further to inform The House, That being unable to complete the inquiry committed to them, they had to recommend to the House, that the Committee be re-appointed at the commencement of the next Session.

To Report.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME OF WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days absent from Home, under Orders of Committee.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Allowance during absence from Home.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
John Marshall Robinson	Surgeon	Bolton	3	4 10 –	6 6 –	10 16 –
T. B. Garstang	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	6 6 –	10 16 –
John Waring	Artisan	ditto	6	4 10 –	4 10 –	9 – –
H. Waring	ditto	ditto	2	4 10 –	2 5 –	6 15 –
Thomas Miller	ditto	ditto	6	4 10 –	4 10 –	9 – –
Wright Mather	ditto	ditto	6	4 10 –	4 10 –	9 – –
Rev. W. Milton	Clergyman	Marlow	1	1 – –	1 1 –	2 1 –
S. Fletcher	Artisan	Manchester	3	2 15 –	2 5 –	5 – –
S. Price	ditto	Bolton	3	4 10 –	2 5 –	6 15 –
R. Heywood	Bleacher, &c.	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
W. Scott	ditto	Manchester	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
H. Sagur	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
A. Bowley	ditto	Nottingham	3	4 12 –	3 3 –	7 15 –
T. Betts	ditto	ditto	3	4 12 –	3 3 –	7 15 –
J. Shelbourne	ditto	ditto	3	4 12 –	3 3 –	7 15 –
T. F. Brownbill	ditto	Salford	–	– – –	– – –	10 10 –
J. Gilbroy	ditto	ditto	–	– – –	– – –	11 3 –
A. Brown	Artisan	Dundee	5	6 6 –	3 15 –	10 1 –
J. Robertson	ditto	ditto	5	6 6 –	3 15 –	10 1 –
D. Richmond	Surgeon	Paisley	5	8 – –	10 10 –	18 10 –
Rev. J. Lockure	Clergyman	ditto	5	8 – –	5 5 –	13 5 –
J. Thompson	Manager of Works	ditto	6	8 – –	6 6 –	14 6 –
J. Leck	Bleacher	Glasgow	5	9 – –	5 5 –	14 5 –
J. Kelso	Surgeon	Lisburn	6	8 – –	12 12 –	20 12 –
J. O'Brien	Bleacher	ditto	6	8 – –	6 6 –	14 6 –
J. Leifer	Physician	Armagh	6	8 – –	18 18 –	26 18 –
W. M'Kinley	Artisan	Lisburn	6	8 – –	4 10 –	12 10 –
J. Henchy	ditto	Belfast	6	8 – –	4 10 –	12 10 –
J. Bell	Bleacher	ditto	6	8 – –	6 6 –	14 6 –
G. M'Comb	ditto	ditto	6	8 – –	6 6 –	14 6 –
J. Ferguson	ditto	ditto	9	8 – –	9 9 –	17 9 –
J. Barton	ditto	Nottingham	5	2 15 –	5 5 –	8 – –
W. Allcock	ditto	ditto	5	2 15 –	5 5 –	8 – –
John Keely	ditto	ditto	5	2 15 –	5 5 –	8 – –
E. Harrison	ditto	ditto	5	2 15 –	5 5 –	8 – –
J. Hardcastle	ditto	Bolton	7	4 10 –	7 7 –	11 17 –
Stephen Blair	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
Stephen Blair	ditto	ditto	8	4 10 –	8 8 –	12 18 –
Charles Morris	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
John Slater	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
John Rylands	ditto	Manchester	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
H. Marsland	ditto	Stockport	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
J. Southworth	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
Rev. W. Packer	Clergyman	near Bolton	4	5 – –	4 4 –	9 4 –
S. Bancroft	Surgeon	ditto	3	4 10 –	6 6 –	10 16 –
J. Pender	Merchant	Manchester	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
J. N. Sclater	Bleacher	Bolton	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
R. Brideson	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
J. Burton	ditto	ditto	3	4 10 –	3 3 –	7 13 –
C. Haworth	ditto	ditto	10	4 10 –	10 10 –	15 – –
J. Conolly	Artisan	Belfast	6	8 – –	4 10 –	12 10 –
J. M'Cullagh	ditto	ditto	6	8 – –	4 10 –	12 10 –
J. M'Adam	Bleacher, &c.	ditto	8	8 – –	8 8 –	16 8 –
					£.	559 18 –

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 6° die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cheetham.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Clark.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Crook.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.	

THE RIGHT HON. LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Edwin Harrison, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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4950. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee your occupation?—I am a Lace Dresser at Nottingham.

4951. How long have you been engaged in that employment?—Twenty-one or 22 years on my own account, with a partner 11 years.

4952. Mr. *Turner.*] A man I think worked at your premises of the name of Bowley?—Yes.

4953. You know that man?—Yes.

4954. He is a respectable man, I suppose, in his occupation?—Yes.

4955. He has given us a sad account of the heat of your works; he says that the heat in your dressing room varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and that he has not known it under 80 degrees; do you confirm that fact?—The heat varies from 65 to 84 degrees; upon the average, it will be about 75.

4956. That I suppose is not, in summer-time at all events, a very oppressive heat?—In summer-time we are often cooler than the external atmosphere; we open the windows, and are very cool.

4957. We are told that you work very long hours at your place; that the usual hours are 15 per day, and that they are sometimes much longer; is that the fact?—About now we begin at six in the morning, and work till eight or half-past eight, Saturday excepted, when we close at six; we did so on Saturday last.

4958. How many working hours do you make that?—The total number is about 14 or 15 hours during the day.

4959. How many hours do you allow out?—Two.

4960. For meals?—Yes.

4961. Then the working hours amount to about 12 or 13?—Yes.

4962. Then you differ from Bowley in his statement; he says that 15 hours a day are the usual number?—No, it is not so.

4963. You say 12 to 13?—Yes.

4964. Working hours?—Yes.

4965. Since you heard of the probability of legislation on this subject, have you shortened your hours?—No. Bowley states that we have worked fewer hours during the past 12 months; but our books show that we have worked more the last 12 months than in the previous 12 months.

4966. Can you give me the figures as to that?—I have the books with me.

4967. Is that fact correct, that you have shortened your hours in consequence of the expectation of legislation?—No, we have not.

4968. We have always understood that the young women of Nottingham cut a very respectable figure when they make their appearance, and we were very much

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much surprised to hear what miserable wages you pay them at Nottingham; and we could not account for the fact of their being so well dressed generally. Mr. Bowley has told us that the females earn from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, including overtime; what is your statement as to that. He was speaking of children, I think, there up to a certain age; up to about 17, I think he said; and his statement was, that they made from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, and that the women earned from 4 *s.* to 5 *s.* or 6 *s.* per week. Can you give the Committee any details from your books as to the earnings of the women?—The women will earn from 8 *s.* or 7 *s.* 6 *d.*, I am not certain which, to 10 *s.* and 12 *s.*

4969. At what age?—Above 17, I think.

4970. Mr. Bowley has stated, that in consequence of the long hours which he has had to work at your place, whereas he was a very religious man, and attended the Baptist chapel regularly, since working at your place, in consequence of the long hours, he has not been able to do so; that is rather a sad account to give of it?—It is.

4971. Have you any knowledge on that subject?—I know for a fact that he went regularly to chapel for 12 or 18 months after he worked for us; and the fact of his discontinuing to do so was from some irregularity—getting intoxicated, I believe—and his principles have been since then, so far as morality is concerned, rather loose.

4972. He was a Sunday-school teacher?—He was a Sunday-school teacher and superintendent of a school.

4973. For a long time?—For a long time after being with us.

4974. Then the cessation of his religious and praiseworthy duties did not occur immediately on his coming to you?—No; a considerable time afterwards.

4975. From some other cause, as you imagine?—Yes.

4976. He has told us that there are many persons out of work, and that when they are out of work they often go so for a long time; what is your experience as to that; are you short of hands, or could you get any quantity you liked?—No, we cannot; we are frequently short of hands, and that is one cause why we have had to work more hours than we otherwise should have done. Last summer, during the whole of the summer, we were six or eight hands short, and could not get them.

4977. Then is it a fact, or otherwise, that there is a superabundance of unemployed labour?—No; hands are very scarce through our trade generally; I know one or two in the same business who are short of hands.

4978. Have your hands ever worked so late that they have not gone home at night, and have so remained several nights together, and have rested on the pieces for a few hours, and have gone to work again?—No, not to my knowledge; no girls have done so; I believe Mr. Bowley did, but it was because he lived three miles and a half away from the works.

4979. Then do you think that this information which he has given the Committee applies only to his own experience?—I think so.

4980. That he himself has rested on the pieces at night, occasionally, without going home?—Yes, I believe three or four nights.

4981. Have the hands generally done so?—No, decidedly not.

4982. *Chairman.*] You have told us that your young women, above the age of 17, earn from 7 *s.* 6 *d.* to 10 *s.* or 12 *s.* a week?—Yes.

4983. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what wages those who are of a younger age than 17 earn?—They begin with 3 *s.*, when they first come; they will have that for a few weeks, and then they are raised gradually, as they improve, 6 *d.* per week.

4984. Then Bowley's evidence, to the effect that the younger females earn about 3 *s.* a week, is not an incorrect statement?—No; they will have overtime besides, at once; and for the first few weeks they can scarcely do anything.

4985. How many hours have those younger females to work in order to earn this 3 *s.* a week?—Nine hours and a half.

4986. Then are we to understand you, that in your establishment you have different hours of work, according to the age of the workpeople?—No.

4987. I understood you to say that your ordinary hours of work were about 13?—Yes, but that includes overtime; that is the real time that is worked; but the nine hours and a half is the day.

4988. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what you regard as your ordinary day's work?—Nine hours and a half.

4989. Whenever

4989. Whenever more hours than those nine hours and a half are worked, that is owing to overtime, is it?—Yes.

4990. What extra pay will these young females earn by overtime?—They will get 4*s.* 4*d.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* per week, including the overtime.

4991. Mr. *Packe.*] Have parents ever complained of their children being too hardly worked in your establishment?—Not to my knowledge.

4992. About how many children under 16 are there in your establishment?—I think we have eight under 17.

4993. Not more than eight?—No.

4994. Have any of the parents ever been threatened with the loss of their employment if they took their children away from your works?—Never.

4995. *Chairman.*] I think you have told the Committee that no girls ever remain all the night in your establishment?—Never.

4996. But that you believe that Bowley occasionally has done so?—I think only three nights, and it was without our knowledge; directly we knew of it we sent for him, and told him that it must be discontinued; it was not needful.

4997. Then are the Committee to understand, that when you say that no females ever remain in your works during the night, none of your workpeople do, unless it be an exceptional case like that of Bowley?—They never have stayed to sleep all night; if they have stayed all night it has been a separate set of hands that have worked in the night, different from the hands that have worked in the day.

4998. Is that your custom now?—No; I think that has occurred four or five or six times only during the last two years.

4999. Can you tell the Committee how late during the last twelve months your works have been kept open at night?—In the winter-time we have begun at eight in the morning, and concluded at about nine and half-past nine at night.

5000. In the summer what would be the longest hours which you have worked?—From six in the morning until half-past eight at night.

5001. To your knowledge have those hours never been exceeded during the last few years?—Occasionally they have; I think five or six times we have exceeded that.

5002. Can you tell the Committee, when you have exceeded those hours, at what hour your establishment has been closed?—I think we have worked until 11, or half-past.

5003. Is that in the winter or in the summer?—That would be in the winter.

5004. Did you begin at eight o'clock, or sooner?—During this time it was an exception; we began at six.

5005. You began at six, and continued till 11 or half-past 11?—Yes; but that was occasioned by our leaving some old premises, and going to new ones, which were unfit for business, and we were compelled to work longer to get through the same amount of business which we otherwise should have done in a shorter time.

5006. Did you employ the same hands all that time, or had you a shift?—We had a shift.

5007. Are the Committee to understand that no people in your employment worked the whole of that time, from six in the morning till half-past 11 at night?—They did it one day, but not the next; we had another set for the next day.

5008. How many hours would be allowed during that time for meals or resting?—Two hours.

5009. Mr. *Packe.*] Have you any child under eight years of age in the works in your establishment?—No.

5010. Mr. Bowley has stated that you have?—We have none under 13.

5011. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Then the class of young people who Bowley stated earned only 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* per week refer to those of 13 years of age?—Yes; they will only have that for three or four weeks, and then they are raised.

5012. The statement which Bowley has made to the Committee, that hands at 17 years of age earn 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week, is not the fact?—No.

5013. Are you compelled to work these children 13 hours a day; is there something in the nature of the trade which requires it?—They are generally absent two or three hours in the morning two or three times a week; we allow them to be so; and I may further state, that when we were working the greatest number of hours, we allowed one or two hands to give over at dinner-time; to take it in turns.

5014. Does the trade which you carry on confine them within doors?—Yes.

 5015. Altogether?

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5015. Altogether?—Yes.

5016. What is the temperature?—It averages 75°.

5017. You have stated to the Committee that there is abundant employment in the town of Nottingham for all classes of workpeople?—Yes.

5018. Bowley has stated that on some occasions you would compel the attendance of these children to work for you through a threat to their parents?—I know nothing of such a thing.

5019. It is a voluntary act on the part of the parents seeking employment for them?—Yes.

5020. Have they ever complained to you of these long hours, this overtime?—No.

5021. Have you known any instance in which these young people have left your employment on that account?—Several have left because they were unwell.

5022. Do you know what occupations they went to?—Some have gone to the same, and some have gone to the lace warehouses.

5023. Do you know, as a fact, what is the length of time which they have to attend in the lace warehouse?—I think from eight in the morning until seven, as a rule; they exceed that sometimes.

5024. I think it was Bowley who stated to us that the education of the young people in Nottingham was very much neglected; is it not the fact that there are a considerable number of schools, both day-schools and Sunday-schools, in that town?—Yes, there are.

5025. And that education is a subject which has attracted the attention of many of the benevolent people of Nottingham?—Yes.

5026. If these people, then, to whom Bowley referred are in the state that he informed the Committee, is it from their own negligence, or to whom would you attribute the fact that they are not educated?—I should think it must be the fault of the parents.

5027. Are there facilities in the town, if they think fit to avail themselves of them?—Yes.

5028. And those facilities they have up to the age of 13?—Yes; and they can attend Sunday-school after that.

5029. So that the absence of this education is not attributable to the nature of their employment?—No, not at all.

5030. Mr. *Davison.*] Do these overhours which you state that they work arise from pressure from the warehouses?—Yes, they do.

5031. Mr. *Baxter.*] Is it the practice in Nottingham not to employ children until they are 13 years of age?—Not that I know of.

5032. Is it the general practice to employ no children until they are 13?—I am not aware of it.

5033. Do you suppose that there are many children employed in other works (they are not in your own, you say) of an earlier age?—I cannot say.

5034. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Would children under 13 be of no service to you?—They would not be of service to us.

5035. Not if employed half the day?—No.

5036. Mr. *Packe.*] I understand you to say that several have left your establishment because they were unwell, and have gone into lace-works?—Yes.

5037. Has that sickness arisen from the employment at all?—No.

5038. Then they were not too unwell to go into some employment?—They would have very likely to remain at home some little time, and then they would be able to go out again.

5039. They did not return to you?—Some have returned again, and some have gone elsewhere; perhaps we have not wanted any at the time they were ready to come back.

5040. Mr. *Davison.*] Can you give any statement or any idea of the number of children in your employment who can read and write?—Yes; amongst the females altogether we have eight able to read and write well; five able to read and write moderately; 11 able to read only; four able to read moderately, and seven able neither to read nor write.

5041. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Did you see anything of Mr. Tremenheere when he was in Nottingham?—No.

5042. He did not visit your establishment?—No.

5043. Information was given to the Committee by a witness previously that for a certain period the bleachers in Nottingham had agreed to work a less number

number of hours; were you one of the parties to that agreement?—No, I do not know anything of it.

5044. *Chairman.*] Do you apprehend that if a Ten-and-a-half Hours' Bill were passed to regulate the hours in your trade evil results would ensue to your business from it?—Yes.

5045. Will you state to the Committee why you come to that opinion?—We should not be able to complete orders which were delivered to us for completion; at other times we might not be able to commence early in the morning, and during the day orders might come in which we could not complete by the time of giving over.

5046. Have you discussed this matter at all with those employers of labour in Nottingham who agreed to diminish the hours of labour among themselves?—No, I have not heard of anything of the sort.

5047. You give that opinion as your own opinion, without consultation with the other employers in the same line of business as yourself?—Yes.

5048. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there establishments in the same line of business in Nottingham which have diminished their hours?—I am not aware of it; I think they work according to orders; we all try to give over as early as possible.

5049. Mr. *Davison.*] Is any steam employed in the process of your manufacture?—The rooms are warmed by steam.

5050. You say they are at about 75° of heat on the average?—Yes.

5051. There is no steam machinery employed in the process of your manufacture?—No.

5052. Mr. *Turner.*] Is not your trade, namely, the lace trade of Nottingham, one which depends very much upon seasons?—Yes.

5053. You are busy at certain seasons, and slack at others?—Yes.

5054. Would it be practicable to finish the lace much before the time when it is wanted, or would it be deteriorated in the value put upon it by the buyer by having been finished a long time beforehand?—It would be impossible, I think, for a lace manufacturer to finish a very large stock. The buyer gives his orders, and the manufacturer may not have anything on hand suitable for his orders, and therefore he has to get it bleached and dressed in a certain time.

5055. Is not a considerable deduction from the value of the lace made if it has the appearance of an old finish upon it?—Yes.

5056. Is not lace valued in the market very much by its freshness and brightness and cleanness, from recent finish?—Yes.

5057. Then it would be impossible to finish lace a very long period before the time at which the buyers would require it?—Quite so.

5058. Mr. *Clark.*] Have your people ever refused to work extra time?—No.

5059. Your long hours then, in fact, are perfectly voluntary?—Quite so.

5060. If the workpeople refused to work extra time, should you consider it necessary for your own protection to hold out any threat?—If they do not attend for the time that the hands have to work, and if they do so frequently, we threaten them then with dismissal, because it stops the business, and those hands who come regularly are detained longer at work in consequence than they would otherwise be; and that is one cause why we have had to work more hours than we otherwise should have done.

5061. That answer I understand is more with regard to irregularity in attendance, than to refusal to work such long hours?—Yes.

5062. But the question which I wished to put to you was whether they refused to work over the usual day's work?—Such a thing has never happened.

5063. What number of hours do your workpeople work in a week?—I think it is 70 on the average.

5064. Mr. *Davison.*] Suppose the Factory Act were applied to the process of the lace manufacture, would it be practicable to commence your work in winter before eight o'clock in the morning?—No, quite impracticable.

5065. For what reason?—We require a certain colour for the lace, and it would be impossible to get that colour exact before we had good daylight.

5066. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Then do you never work by gas or candle light in your finishing?—Yes; when we have once got the colour, we may proceed with the gas light.

5067. Mr. *Packe.*] Is there generally good employment for all the operatives in Nottingham?—Yes, there is.

5068. Mr. *Clark.*] I see that the following question was put to Mr. Bowley:

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"Did I rightly understand you to state, that you have known an instance, in your own establishment, where the workpeople have been threatened with dismissal if they did not work extra hours?" His reply was, "Yes, in our own place." Do you think that that witness was mistaken?—It refers to the irregularity of the hands.

5069. No—"if they did not work extra hours"?—I know of no such instance.

5070. Not in your establishment?—No; they have been threatened if they did not come regularly.

5071. Mr. *Crook.*] What sort of bleaching is yours?—Lace-dressing.

5072. Does that include bleaching?—No.

5073. Simply the dressing of lace?—The dressing of lace.

5074. For that purpose you require steam heat?—Yes.

5075. Have you any stove?—No.

5076. Then when you were speaking of the temperature of 75 or 80 degrees, it was not in a stove?—No.

5077. Mr. *Packe.*] Is your establishment well ventilated?—Yes, we have the windows constantly open.

5078. Mr. *Crook.*] How many young females do you employ under the age of 18?—I think we have eight.

5079. Have you any boys under 18?—Two.

5080. Ten people?—Yes.

5081. And how many women have you besides these?—I think about 28.

5082. As regards the limitation of the hours of labour, these 38 people would be directly affected by it if this Bill were passed?—Yes.

5083. It would affect all young people under 18, and women over that age?—Yes.

5084. These work-rooms of yours require artificial heat?—Yes.

5085. To a temperature, you say, averaging 75 degrees?—Yes.

5086. Has it never come to your knowledge that it has been higher than that?—Eighty-four degrees I have seen it at when we have been at work.

5087. Not higher?—I have seen it higher, but not when we have been at work.

5088. What is the nature of the work which these people have to do?—The stiffening of lace, and the clearing of it.

5089. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Have they to stand to do it?—They do it walking, chiefly.

5090. Mr. *Crook.*] Then they work in an upright position?—Yes.

5091. You state that occasionally you do not commence work until eight o'clock in the morning?—Yes.

5092. Are you aware what hours your people are working now, take the last week?—From six in the morning until half-past eight, and on Saturday they give over at six.

5093. *Chairman.*] We understood you to say that you could not commence your work before daylight at any time in the year, and that therefore you could not commence your work in the winter before eight o'clock; is that so?—We could not.

5094. We have had it stated in evidence, that for four or five years altogether, all the lace bleaching establishments in Basford only worked from six in the morning till a certain hour of the night; that they began work at six in the morning?—I do not know anything of the bleachers' works.

5095. Can you explain how the bleachers do work from six in the morning during the winter?—I do not know anything of the bleaching department.

5096. Then your observation as to the impossibility of working before daylight, in the winter, applies solely to the lace-finishing?—Yes.

5097. Mr. *Crook.*] You have eight girls under 18 years of age; are there none of those girls who have but 3*s.* a week?—One.

5098. Is there any girl who has less than 3*s.* a week?—No.

5099. Have you any at 3*s.* 6*d.*?—One.

5100. Any at 4*s.*?—Yes, we have two or three at 4*s.*; but I cannot recollect the exact number.

5101. Then these eight girls do not average much more than 3*s.* a week?—Yes, from 4*s.* 4*d.*

5102. You say one has 3*s.*?—That is without overtime; they will only have that sum for three or four weeks at the utmost.

5103. Three shillings?—Yes; then they are advanced.

5104. Three shillings or 4*s.* is when they first begin?—Yes.

5105. You have only one learner at 3*s.*?—Yes.

5106. We have it in evidence that there are girls only receiving 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.*, and 3*s.* 6*d.* a week; that statement it appears is correct so far as regards 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* a week?—Yes, for one girl.

5107. One girl at 3*s.* and one at 3*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

5108. You find some difficulty in getting the workpeople to attend early in the morning?—It is only a few.

5109. But there is some difficulty in getting them earlier than eight o'clock?—One part of the hands will be always there, and the other part will be occasionally absent.

5110. Some particular individuals?—Yes, according to dispositions and temperaments.

5111. And it obliges you to work longer hours in consequence?—Yes.

5112. The real necessity for working late at night is the scarcity of hands, you say?—Yes.

5113. And you say that you are not aware that there has been any number of people out of work at Nottingham?—No; we are now wanting two or three hands, and cannot get them.

5114. Mr. *Davison.*] Are those girls who have the low wages in the instance or two which you have spoken of, learners or experienced hands?—Learners; they have only been with us a few weeks.

5115. And of course as they become experienced and fit for work, you then apportion their wages?—Yes; for a few weeks at lace-dressing they cannot earn anything.

5116. With regard to these irregular attenders, do you know any establishment where a number of hands are employed in which you will not find some few persons who are irregular in their attendance?—It is so.

5117. And it is necessary to say, that unless they conform to the hours, it is impossible for you to carry on the business?—Yes, quite so.

5118. With regard to these dressing-rooms, are the people employed in them at work the whole year round, or is there any interruption?—In our establishment they have 9 or 10 days' holiday during the year.

5119. Independently of those 9 or 10 days' holidays, are you at full work during the year in those rooms?—We are; but ours is a department which is tolerably regular; there are other departments in the lace trade which are very irregular.

5120. Irregular from what cause, depending on orders?—Depending upon orders, and the seasons of the year.

5121. Taking the other houses where that regularity exists, how many months in the year will the people probably be employed in those dressing-rooms, on an average?—I cannot say that exactly; there are three or four months in the year when they work very short time, much under the nine hours and a half.

5122. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there any particular periods in the year when you expect this pressure of work?—Yes; the spring will be busy, and the autumn.

5123. Mr. *Davison.*] When the girls have learnt their business, and become good workwomen, what is the amount of wages which they receive?—Nine shillings and sixpence a week for the nine hours and a half per day.

5124. Mr. *Cheetham.*] And what do you pay them for overtime?—According to the wages they have for work; so much per hour; those at 9*s.* 6*d.* a week would have 2½*d.* an hour over.

5125. Mr. *Packe.*] Is not that a higher rate of wages for women in Nottingham than they can get in other employments?—I think they get as good in the lace warehouses.

5126. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Do not they earn even higher wages than that in the lace warehouses?—I cannot say.

5127. What do the men in your establishment earn?—Is theirs piecework?—No, so much per day.

5128. What is their wage?—Fourteen shillings, 16*s.*, 18*s.*, 21*s.* and 25*s.* per week.

5129. I think there has been a little confusion in the minds of some of the Committee as to your precise occupation; Bowley states that he is a bleacher in your employment, and that you bleach cotton goods; that, I think, is not the fact?—No, we are only lace-dressers; we have nothing to do with the bleaching.

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5130. Simply dressing and finishing lace?—Yes.

5131. Mr. *Packe.*] You are of the firm of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, are you not?—Yes.

5132. Mr. *Cheetham.*] So that if the question was put to Bowley, "What class of goods do they bleach?" referring to you, it ought to have been, "Do they finish," and not "bleach"?—Yes.

5133. Mr. *Crook.*] Is Bowley in your employment yet?—Yes.

5134. How do you describe his department of business?—He works in the dressing department.

5135. Mr. *Cheetham.*] If the question is put to him, "Will you state to the Committee what occupation you follow?" and he says, "I am a bleacher," that is an incorrect description of himself?—Yes; a lace-dresser.

5136. Mr. *Crook.*] It is cotton lace?—Cotton lace and silk.

5137. Is what you call dressing lace the finishing of it?—Yes, previously to its going to the manufacturer who sells it.

5138. Preparing it for sale?—Yes.

5139. Do you not technically call it finishing?—No; it is usually called lace-dressing or stiffening.

5140. Is it washed at all in the process after you get it?—No; we stiffen it; we starch it.

5141. Do you know the firm of Burton & Eames, of Basford, in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

5142. They are bleachers, are they not?—Yes.

5143. And Mr. Tebbutt, of Basford?—Yes.

5144. Are you aware that the workpeople in their establishments work regular hours?—I am not.

5145. You are not aware that the workpeople have made an arrangement there by which they limit their hours from six to six?—I am not.

5146. You are not aware whether those firms work overtime or not?—I am not.

5147. You have not had occasion to go and see anything of their operations?—No; our establishment is in Nottingham.

5148. Mr. *Packe.*] Are the greater number of those who work in your establishment females?—Yes.

5149. What proportion are the females to the males?—We have 36 or 38 females, and about a dozen men and boys.

John Burton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

John Burton, Esq.

5150. *Chairman.*] WILL you tell the Committee what your occupation is?—Gasser, Bleacher and Trimmer, or Finisher.

5151. In the town of Nottingham, or the neighbourhood?—In the neighbour hood of Nottingham.

5152. How many people do you employ?—Three hundred and sixty.

5153. Will you divide them into the three classifications which you have mentioned, and state how many you employ in the gassing, how many in the bleaching, and how many in the finishing?—I have not that distinction; I have given the Committee the gross numbers.

5154. Of those how many would be men, how many would be women, and how many young persons under the age of 18?—One hundred and twenty-six men, 115 women, and 119 young persons.

5155. At what age do those young persons generally enter your establishment?—Those young persons would be under about 17.

5156. At what age do they enter generally; what would be the youngest?—It would include from 9 to 17 years of age.

5157. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—The women work from seven to seven and the men from six to six.

5158. How long do you allow for meals and resting?—Two hours out of that.

5159. That is to say, your people work ten hours a day?—Yes.

5160. Those are your ordinary hours of labour?—Yes.

5161. Are they ever exceeded?—What they exceed we pay as overhours.

5162. Will you tell the Committee what the excess is; what your custom is in that respect?—Until nine in the evening is the longest time that we allow them to work.

5163. They sometimes work until nine in the evening?—Yes.

5164. Do the young persons from 9 to 17 occasionally work those overhours?—It is very rarely that they do it; it is the adults who work those overhours generally, and that is not all the year round.

5165. For how long a period of time would those overhours be continued?—We are busier in one part of the year than in the other; we are busier, say, six or seven months in the year, more especially in the hosiery department.

5166. Do you alter the hours in summer and winter, or do you keep to the same time all the year round?—The trade alters it; we have not the same pressure of business in one part of the year that we have in the other, therefore the hours are arranged in accordance with what we have to do.

5167. Is there anything in the nature of your business which compels you to work only during daylight?—Nothing.

5168. Will you explain to the Committee the nature of the gassing business?—That applies to lace; the lace is passed by the machine through a flame which burns off the fibre and leaves the hole clear; there are very few employed in that; we have not more than eight at any time employed in that department.

5169. Is the temperature in that room higher than it is in the other rooms in your establishment?—No, the temperature of that room is not more than that of the other rooms.

5170. Can you tell the Committee what the temperature in your rooms generally is?—In this part of the year it would be about 70°.

5171. Do you employ machinery?—Yes.

5172. In all the branches?—In bleaching, but not in finishing; not for the trimming; that is done by hand labour.

5173. I think you gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, did you not?—Yes.

5174. I think at that time you were working from seven till seven, in consequence of some arrangement which you had entered into with your workpeople?—The workpeople formed a union; that was their own doing; but we considered that the arrangements which they had entered into, as far as their hours were concerned, were fair. I looked at the matter myself, and we acceded to the terms at once.

5175. Does that arrangement continue now?—There is no compact as far as the men are concerned, nor is there any compact as far as the employers are concerned; the arrangement which we now enter into is entirely voluntary on the part of each firm.

5176. And it is therefore of course liable to be put an end to at any moment?—Just so.

5177. Is it, in point of fact, in operation now or not?—It is not in operation, any further than each employer makes an arrangement with his own men.

5178. With respect to your own works, is that regulation which was in force when Mr. Tremenheere was in Nottingham in force now, or not?—We are abiding by very nearly the same time; I may say that we are abiding by the same hours.

5179. Practically, do you find any insuperable difficulty in the way of abiding by an arrangement of that nature?—I do not know that we do.

5180. Are the Committee to understand that all the employers of labour in your branch of business endeavour to adhere to that regulation, or are some of them working an unlimited number of hours, while others are working a limited number of hours?—I do not precisely understand the question.

5181. We understand from what you have told us that, speaking generally, you do not work more than 10 hours a day yourself?—No; I have not made that statement.

5182. What was the nature of the arrangement which you described to Mr. Tremenheere when he was in Nottingham?—The arrangement which the men made was this; that the bleachers, which is one part of the business, might work from six in the morning until eight in the evening; that was their proposition; and the trimmers from six in the morning until nine in the evening.

5183. Take the finishing department?—The trimming is the finishing; that is the finishing of hosiery.

5184. In the statement made, apparently on your authority, by Mr. Tremenheere, it is stated that your regulation was from six to six from April to September?—Yes; that was for the day.

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5185. And from seven to seven in winter?—That was for the day; but it did not include the overhours.

5186. At the time when you gave this evidence to Mr. Tremenheere, what were your overhours in the finishing department?—At that time the bleachers confined their hours of labour to from six till eight; that was when we were busy. When we were slack they gave over again at six in the evening. When they worked till eight at the time Mr. Tremenheere was there, we were on piecework, and now, in one part of the business, we pay by the day; that difference is to be remarked. They arranged their hours of labour, and they also fixed the price which we were to pay for that labour, and to pay for it by the piece.

5187. Then the Committee understand that your overhours never exceeded two hours at that time; I am now speaking of the time when you gave evidence to Mr. Tremenheere?—That requires a distinction; we had a certain number of hands who took the work by the piece, and they had a certain number under them; all those employed under those who took it by the piece, if they worked till eight o'clock, would be paid by the men who took it by the piece for two hours' overwork; that would be the extent to which the men taking it by the piece would allow those under them to work. Now, supposing I was the employer, it made no difference to me, because I paid them so much for the hundred dozens of hose bleached.

5188. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You paid that to the undertakers in the first instance?—Yes, and they would pay those working under them at so much per week, and then two hours each day for overhours if they worked till eight o'clock in the evening.

5189. *Chairman.*] When you first came into that arrangement with your workpeople, did the manufacturers, who may be looked upon, I suppose, as your employers in a certain sense, make any objection or difficulty to your entering into that arrangement?—We got through the business during that arrangement, and I think to their satisfaction.

5190. Mr. *Packe.*] Your rule is to leave off work in the bleaching department, as I understand you, at eight in the evening, and in the trimming department at nine?—Yes.

5191. Are there not some establishments which do not agree to that rule, and which work on to 11 or 12?—I have been informed that there are some which do so.

5192. I think you are at Basford, are you not?—I have two places, one at Lenton and the other at Basford.

5193. Is it at Lenton or Basford that these establishments exist?—Mine at Lenton is the only one in that locality; the others are in the other locality where I have works.

5194. Then you do not know whether there are other establishments which keep their workpeople up later than you do, namely, till 11 or 12 o'clock at night?—They may do so occasionally.

5195. Are there any children under 10 years of age in your establishment?—There are.

5196. How many are there under that age?—At the works where I have been residing for some years, that is, at Basford, I have kept a register; I have always entered in that register their age, when I received them, and whether they were able to read and write, or what they could do; at the other place, Lenton, where I have been residing the last four months, there has not been any register kept, therefore I am not able to speak to that so accurately. I see from the register, that at Basford we have six under nine years of age, then from nine to eleven we have 17.

5197. Have you any under eight years of age?—I can scarcely speak to that; there may be one or two, but if there are any they do nothing but turn hose; they are not employed in either bleaching or finishing; it is merely putting in their hand and turning the stocking.

5198. Do they work the same number of hours as the others whom you have been speaking of?—No, they are a little more irregular; they do not work the same number of hours; I object to it.

5199. What number of hours do those young children work?—We do not let them work overhours; their hours are fixed to the day.

5200. Then they would work from seven to seven, or from six to six?—From seven to seven.

5201. *Chairman.*]

5201. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that you think that children under the age of 11 ought not to work more than 10 hours a day?—I have taken on a certain number in order that we may prevent, as much as possible, there being a necessity for working overhours.

5202. Do you think that it is advisable that young children should not work those long hours which you have described?—There is a very great difference in children; some we have noticed are much stronger than others.

5203. You have stated to the Committee your own practice; will you have the goodness to tell the Committee upon what principle that practice is founded?—When they have been of such a tender age as under nine years, I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to limit the number of hours for them.

5204. Mr. *Packe.*] Is it necessary to have those young children in your establishment for any particular sort of work?—Some of the parents are very anxious to get them in; it has often been the case that the father of the family has been taken away, and the parents have been dependent upon these children, to some extent, for their subsistence, and they are very anxious to get them employed earlier sometimes, perhaps, than it is desirable they should be.

5205. Have you ever heard of parents complaining of their children being too hardly worked?—I have not heard of it.

5206. Mr. *Cheetham*] Is your establishment now working according to the regulation which was adopted between the masters and the men some years go?—Very nearly so; we have deviated from it very little.

5207. The workman, Shelbourne, whom we had before the Committee, stated that that regulation was broken by the great mass of the masters; is that the fact, that it no longer exists to the extent that it did?—It does not exist to the extent that it did, that is certain.

5208. Are there some establishments working considerably longer hours than your own?—I think there are.

5209. Do you experience any result from that, in the fact of your workpeople leaving you to go to establishments with these longer hours?—I have only had one or two cases where they have wished to remove, for the purpose of working more hours.

5210. In order to get a higher rate of wages?—Yes; I have had one or two cases of that sort.

5211. Have you had any the other way, in which those working at these establishments where long hours prevail have left to come to your shorter hours?—I do not recollect any.

5212. I think you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that, as regards the boys in your employment, their occupation is very much in the nature of mere domestic work?—It is so, very much.

5213. Mr. Tremenheere called upon you when he was in Nottingham?—He did.

5214. Did he examine any of your workpeople?—I sent for some of them, in order that he might have from them answers to any questions which he chose to put, rather than taking the answers from me; especially in reference to them, and what they were doing.

5215. Mr. *Davison.*] Does the employment of these very young children arise from the demand of the master, or the desire of the parent?—I think it is mutual.

5216. You think they both wish it?—I think so.

5217. Mr. *Turner.*] I think you mentioned that the trade in Nottingham is rather irregular; that at some seasons you are busy and at others very slack?—Yes, it is so.

5218. It is at the busy seasons, of course, that you work these long hours?—Yes.

5219. Supposing the same quantity of work was pressed upon you, and a Bill was also passed that you could only work 12 hours, taking two off for meals, how would you get through that press of work at those busy seasons; would it be necessary for you to extend your premises, and the number of your workpeople?—I apprehend that it would operate in that way; then it would be a question whether we could obtain the number at a given period. We should have to multiply the hands very much, supposing we could obtain them; and then when the flat season arrived we should have to discharge them.

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5220. Would it be necessary to extend your premises?—We must extend our means in some way or other to facilitate the doing of the work.

5221. Then it comes to this, that you would have, in order to get through the requisite quantity of work in a shorter time, to extend your premises, and to extend the number of your workpeople?—It must be so.

5222. When the slack time came, how would you deal with your premises and your workpeople?—The workpeople we should have to diminish. I do not know how we should manage with the premises; we should manage as well as we could.

5223. You would have to work very short hours if you kept your workpeople together, I suppose?—Yes.

5224. And of course their wages would be diminished accordingly?—Just so.

5225. *Chairman.*] I understand you to have told Mr. Tremenheere that before you entered into this arrangement which you made, you used to be pressed to work nearly all through the night by the manufacturers?—Occasionally they would, for instance, send lace down in the evening to bleach, and want it back the next morning white.

5226. After you entered into this arrangement with your workpeople, did you find that you had to enlarge very greatly your premises, and increase the number of your workpeople, for the purpose of meeting the orders which came to you?—I apprehend that we did not feel it quite so much when the arrangement was general.

5227. Are the Committee to understand that if a Ten Hours' Bill was passed which was general in its application to all the employers of labour in your business, you do not think that you would be compelled to enlarge your premises and increase the number of your workpeople to the degree which you have stated in answer to the question of the Honourable Member?—We should have to do something of the sort, unless an Act could be passed so that we should have the work regular all the year round; then, perhaps, if we could get the two things together, we should do.

5228. Practically, when you entered into the arrangement with your workpeople for the regulation of the hours of their labour, did you find yourself compelled to increase the number of the workpeople, or to enlarge greatly your premises?—Your Lordship will bear in mind that the workpeople did not confine it to 10 hours; they allowed two hours beyond; so that there was that elasticity about it; on the one side there were two hours, and on the other three. I apprehend that if an Act of Parliament were passed it would be stereotyped; it would not say that we could vary the labour according to circumstances, but we must go all the year round the same.

5229. I understand you to say that there was an elasticity, as far as two hours were concerned?—Three hours really, in one part of the business, which is that where we have the most difficulty in getting the labour.

5230. Mr. *Cheetham.*] That is in the trimming?—Yes; I do not know whether the Legislature would allow us that elasticity of three hours so as to regulate it in that way; still I think that we can manage it better ourselves than the Legislature can do it for us.

5231. *Chairman.*] I understood you to say, that you thought that the difficulty would be diminished in proportion as the regulation of hours was general?—If a manufacturer can send his work down to a certain place, and get it done during the night, it gives him an advantage over another place; but if he knows that he cannot get it done during the night, we are all in the same boat.

5232. Are the Committee to understand that you think that the system of sending orders in the evening to be finished by the following morning is an objectionable system?—I think so; but such things as those are very occasional.

5233. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Can you inform me how the arrangement was brought about between the workmen and the masters, as to the reduction of the time?—The business was increasing very much, and there was a great deal of agitation, both as to whether the work should be done by the piece or by the day, and also as to the price paid; there were a variety of circumstances; it could not be attributed to any one circumstance.

5234. Which led to a discussion between the two parties?—Yes.

5235. Then the question of these long hours was also introduced into that discussion?—Yes.

5236. And both parties came voluntarily to an arrangement to reduce them?—We did not see that there was any particular objection to the hours specified.

5237. That arrangement continued for four or five years; I think we have it in evidence?—It continued perhaps for four years.

5238. Then it was broken through?—Yes.

5239. Do you see any difficulty in that arrangement being brought about again in the same way?—Very considerable difficulty; the hours were regulated, and also the price paid for the labour; the two went together.

5240. So that the longer hours led to higher wages?—Not so. Shorter hours led to higher wages; the men under those who were working by the piece got their wages raised for working shorter hours.

5241. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you think it would be better for the operatives if other establishments were restricted to the hours adopted in your establishment?—I am not able to answer that question.

5242. What is your reason for limiting the hours, which I think you do in your establishment, if I understand you, to not later than nine in the evening?—I have very great doubt in my mind as to whether any employer derives any advantage from the people in his employ working more hours; I think that nature becomes, to a great extent, exhausted by those hours of labour, and wants recruiting, and, really, if you exact any more you are trenching upon a resource which recoils upon yourself eventually in one form or another.

5243. Then would it not be better for the operatives that they should be universally limited to the hours which are adopted in your establishment?—I entertain that opinion, as far as I am concerned, that it would be best for the masters and for the men if they could enter into an arrangement of that sort; I think they would not experience any detriment by it.

5244. *Chairman.*] In answer to a question put by Mr. Cheetham, I think you told the Committee that you saw very great difficulties, if not insuperable difficulties, in the way of such an arrangement being made again?—I think there would be great difficulties for it to be universal.

5245. Will you tell the Committee, if you can, whether those who have left your works in order to go into the establishments where the longer hours prevail are adults or young people?—In the case that I have in my mind it was an adult.

5246. Mr. *Davison.*] To enable the arrangement which you speak of to be carried into effect again, am I to understand you to say that it would require an arrangement, not only with respect to hours, but also with respect to price?—The two at the time were taken together.

5247. And that you consider gave a facility to the arrangement?—That, along with a pressure of business.

5248. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you hear that manufacturers were put to any great inconvenience after you declined to undertake to finish their lace in the night and deliver it the next morning?—I do not recollect hearing of any particular inconvenience.

5249. I think you expressed an opinion to the Committee that you thought that ten hours and a half a day was long enough for these girls to be employed?—For young children.

5250. For young people under 18?—Yes.

5251. I think you say that you have occasionally taken on an additional number in order to prevent working overhours?—I have done so.

5252. Supposing this Bill passed, what number of additional workpeople would be required to do the same work?—Of course that would apply to the women more particularly.

5253. To the women and boys exclusively?—As far as the women were concerned, it would affect our whole operations in the finishing of hosiery.

5254. What would be the difference in the number of hours between a fixed day and the greatest length to which you work overtime; I think you say it is only occasionally that you work till nine o'clock?—The trimmers work till nine o'clock in the busy part of the year.

5255. And that extends to six or seven months in the year?—Certainly; it would do that at least.

5256. What is the quantity of time per day that these women work exceeding ten hours and a half; they work sometimes, you say, overhours?—Yes.

5257. Will you make a calculation of what number of additional workpeople you would require provided this Act passed, and limited you to six o'clock; supposing

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supposing you were tied from employing women and young people after six o'clock, what number of additional women and children would you require?—I can scarcely answer that question.

5258. Would it not be in proportion to the hours employed?—I have been wanting more menders for the last six months, and have not been able to obtain them.

5259. You say that you could not get an additional number of women if you wanted them?—No.

5260. Will you be kind enough to make a calculation what number of additional people would be required as a substitute for these additional number of hours, supposing you were limited?—I am not in a position to answer that question; it would require a little more time to make the calculation.

5261. Supposing the additional number required to be four women and two girls, if you could get those four women and two girls during the six or seven months, the Act would not affect you beyond that?—Yes, it would, very considerably.

5262. In what way?—I should want many more.

5263. Would you want a greater number than in proportion to the difference in the hours?—Three hours would be one-fourth part of the day.

5264. You say that you think that nature becomes exhausted after long hours; do not you think that the nature of women becomes exhausted after being employed from six o'clock to six?—The work of our women is not very laborious.

5265. Is it sitting or standing?—It is sitting, using the needle; it is not laborious work.

5266. Do you employ any steam power?—We do not employ any women in connexion with steam power.

5267. You were asked whether there would be great difficulty in regulating the hours of labour by a voluntary arrangement; do you think that there would be great difficulty in it?—I do not see how it could be done, unless the employers themselves would enter into a mutual arrangement with reference to it.

5268. The employers generally, you mean?—Yes.

5269. Do you think that at all probable?—I think it rather improbable.

5270. Mr. *Davison.*] Was the trade in a good and prosperous state at the time when this agreement was entered into?—In a very good state.

5271. Provided a prosperous and regular state of trade continued, would there be less difficulty in carrying out that agreement?—There would be less difficulty supposing they all took the same view of it.

5272. But taking into account a bad trade, or the fluctuations in trade, that would increase the difficulty of carrying out the agreement; goods coming in upon you at one time which did not exist at another?—True.

5273. That would very much affect the fixing of a certain number of hours to work?—Different employers take different views of these matters; some do not, perhaps, precisely see the evil arising from working all night; others do see it; we cannot get them all to see in the same way.

5274. Do you find any difficulty in getting a sufficient number of women to work?—We find a difficulty, at certain times, in getting a sufficient number to do the work, inasmuch as in the neighbourhood of Nottingham there has been a great demand for the labour of women.

5275. Does that apply particularly to the making of hosiery?—It does not apply particularly to the hosiery, because there has been a great demand for the labour of women in connexion with the lace.

5276. Mr. *Turner.*] Do you not think it probable that if you were limited in your hours, and could not ever allow these women to work overhours, their wages by that means being reduced, they would seek other occupations, which are abundant in Nottingham?—I think it is very likely they would. I may state, that before coming here, I went into a room where we have about 30 women, and I told them that I was coming to London, and that I should like to hear from them whether they wished the Legislature to pass an Act that they should not be allowed to work after six o'clock in the evening; I wished them to state it unreservedly, without any reference to my being present; merely as their opinion; they are all adults: I said, "You can work now to the utmost, according to my wish, till nine in the evening; should you like the Legislature to pass an Act not allowing you to work after six in the evening?" They universally said that they would rather

rather be as they were; they prefer, when we are busy, working an hour or two over.

5277. They like to get a little additional wages occasionally?—They get a little more money, and that enables them to dress a little better, and appear a little more respectable.

5278. We have heard that they do dress very well in Nottingham?—Yes, they do generally.

5279. Mr. *Clark.*] If there was a law passed limiting the working hours of women and boys under 18 years of age to 10 hours, would it materially interfere with the working of men?—It would interfere with the working of men, inasmuch as we could not get the work back again; it would retard the getting that back which the men are obliged to do.

5280. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Then any limitation by Act of Parliament as regards the labour of the young people, would limit also that of the adults?—It would, in one branch of business connected with the hosiery, most decidedly.

5281. So that, in point of fact, it would practically be a legislation as to the whole of the hands that you employ?—It would not be a legislation for that part of the business connected with lace; it would not affect that at all; but it would affect that part connected with the hosiery, where we employ by far the larger number of hands.

5282. Mr. *Clark.*] How, then, do you propose supplying the place of boys and women, so as to prevent the necessity of grown-up persons also being obliged to give up work at the end of 10 hours?—I cannot see the way out of that difficulty; I do not know how we should supply the need.

5283. Mr. *Cobbett.*] That was the argument which was always used against the Factory Act, was it not, that the restriction of the work of the women and children to 10 hours would necessarily stop the work of the men? Do you remember any of the discussions which took place upon the Factory Act, the Ten Hours' Act?—I do not know, I am sure, how far that would operate there.

5284. What is the earliest age at which you have known children taken into the lace factories?—Our children have nothing to do with lace in any way; where we employ the children, it is only in turning the stockings, and stitching two together.

5285. What is the very earliest age at which you have known children work?—The greatest proportion of our women whom we employ to mend, very rarely begin to do anthing before 15 or 16.

5286. What other employment do you give to young children? In your own business are there any children employed?—None, with the exception of those employed in turning and stitching.

5287. How young do you take those?—We have some at eight, nine, and ten years old.

5288. Do you know whether children are taken as early as five?—I have not known such an instance.

5289. Mr. *Crook.*] Have you any of these children, young girls or boys, working now after six o'clock?—We are rather flat just now; we have not got full employment.

5290. You told the Committee that you endeavoured to prevent their working after six o'clock by taking on an additional number?—Not after six; at least I have tried to keep it down to that, but sometimes we have worked till eight.

5291. You have tried to keep the employment of children down to six o'clock?—Yes, of the young children.

5292. Have you never succeeded in confining their employment to six o'clock?—When we have been busy I have not succeeded in doing it for a month together.

5293. When you have been slack you have had no occasion to employ them after six; you have therefore made no effort to stop them at six, because they were stopping at five, I suppose?—We have let them give over at six.

5294. When you have been busy, you say you have taken on additional children and boys to prevent working these children after six o'clock?—To keep to it as near as we could; sometimes we have diverged an hour, and sometimes two hours.

5295. Then your impression at that time was, that stopping these children at six o'clock would not stop the men or the women at six o'clock?—I have been better able to obtain young persons, say of nine, ten, and eleven, at

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Basford, than I have been able to obtain them at Lenton; I have found that difference; there seems to be a greater abundance of labour in the one place than in the other.

5296. You can get a sufficient number of girls and boys at Basford to prevent them working after six o'clock?—We have found it easier to obtain labour in one place than in the other.

5297. As far as you have succeeded in doing that, it has not interfered with the labour of the other part of the workpeople; they have been able to work for the usual time after these children have given over?—They have gone on after the children have given over. There is one matter which you will excuse my referring to; I heard it stated here by Mr. Tremenheere that bleaching was considered an unhealthy business. It is the first time I ever heard it, and that statement astonished me more than anything I heard in reference to his evidence. Bleaching is not an unhealthy business, but a very healthy business; I have no hesitation in affirming that, and that it is well understood in our locality that it is a healthy business.

5298. *Chairman.*] Will you explain to the Committee whether, in speaking of bleaching, you include all the bleaching processes, or only the processes with which you are most familiar; do you include cotton bleaching?—The bleaching of cotton, hosiery and lace.

William Allcock, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Allcock, Esq.

5299. *Chairman.*] WHAT is the nature of your employment?—The bleaching and finishing of cotton and merino hosiery.

5300. Where do you reside?—At Bulwell, near Nottingham.

5301. How many people do you employ?—About 70 in that business.

5302. How many are women and how many children?—There are about 21 women over 18 years of age, and eight between 13 and 18; there is only one under 13 years of age.

5303. Have you any boys?—Yes; four boys under 13, and nine between 13 and 18.

5304. Will you tell the Committee what the hours of labour are in your establishment?—From six till seven in summer, and in the winter from seven till seven.

5305. Are those hours ever exceeded?—Occasionally, in the busy time.

5306. Will you tell the Committee when they are exceeded what is the amount of overtime worked?—Two hours, not more.

5307. Do the boys under the age of 18 work overhours when they are worked?—Yes.

5308. Is steam machinery employed in your establishment?—Not where the boys work.

5309. Do the women work where there is steam machinery?—Not at all.

5310. Neither the women nor the boys?—Neither the women nor the boys.

5311. Only the adult men?—Only the adult men; there are two strong lads of about 16 or 17 who occasionally go in, but not regularly.

5312. What is the heat of the rooms in which the women and the boys generally work?—Merely a comfortable heat; they can regulate it as they choose by opening the windows or making a fire in winter.

5313. Has your attention been called to the subject-matter before the consideration of the Committee?—Yes.

5314. Do you wish to state to the Committee your views upon the proposed Bill?—I think that it would be injurious to the workpeople in our establishment.

5315. Will you tell the Committee the reasons which you have for coming to that opinion?—Because the amount of work required to be done fluctuates very much; at certain times of the year, for instance now, we are frequently obliged to leave off work at four in the afternoon; if the workpeople were unable to make an hour or two in busy time their average must be less than 10 hours a day.

5316. Do you apprehend that any prejudicial effects would follow to your own business?—Yes; we should be obliged either to do a less quantity of work or to increase our premises.

5317. Did you hear the evidence given by Mr. Burton?—Yes.

5318. Are you one of the employers who entered into that arrangement spoken of by him?—Yes.

5319. Do you still continue it?—As closely as possible; I may say strictly.

5320. Have

5320. Have you found that you have had to enlarge your premises or increase the number of your workpeople in consequence of your having entered into that arrangement?—No, not in consequence of that arrangement, because it was merely a formal arrangement entered into which did not affect our business at all. We had been previously carrying it on in about the same manner.

5321. Previously to your entering into that arrangement, you had not been in the habit of working those very long hours of which we have heard?—Not at all.

5322. Are you aware whether any of the employers of labour in your business still work those very long hours?—I cannot answer for them all. I know that my two next neighbours in the same business do not; I was at their places last week; at eight in the evening they were both shut.

5323. Mr. *Turner.*] I think you are a farmer as well as a bleacher, are you not?—Yes.

5324. You have a quantity of land in occupation?—Yes.

5325. Do you consider that the boys and young women employed in your bleach-works are more unhealthy, as a class, than those whom you employ on your land?—I have known the case of a man applying to me to have his boy taken off agricultural work and put to work in the bleach-yard, as he considered that the employment was more healthy: the lad was weakly.

5326. What was his reason for coming to that conclusion; was the boy exposed to inclement weather?—The boy of course was exposed to the weather when employed in the fields.

5327. The father considered it rather a luxury for the boy to come under cover in the bleach-works?—Yes; he thought the boy would be more comfortable.

5328. Have you ever had the reverse case?—Not at all.

5329. You have not been asked that the boys employed in your bleach-works should be allowed to go and farm?—No; they can get more money in the bleach-works.

5330. What are the wages of the boys employed in the bleach-works as compared with those on the farm?—Nearly half as much again.

5331. In favour of the bleach-works?—Yes.

5332. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You say that you have not departed from the arrangement which was agreed upon some time ago between the masters and the men?—No.

5333. Have you heard that it has been broken through in other instances?—I have heard it so reported; I have heard it so stated in this room; but I cannot speak to it of my own knowledge.

5334. Do you see any difficulty in resuming that arrangement between the parties?—I cannot answer for other people's business.

5335. But in your own you have not deviated from it?—Not at all.

5336. Mr. *Packe.*] Is there not considerably more work for the boys in the bleach-works; are there not longer hours in the day than in the work upon the farm?—Not on the average.

5337. I presume that you do not work longer on the farm than from six to six at any time?—That is the usual time, excepting harvest, of course.

5338. Do not they work longer than that in the bleach-works?—On the average they do not, but there are times when they do; in times of pressure they work till eight or nine o'clock.

5339. Not later?—Not later.

5340. Mr. *Crook.*] You say that you are not working even your ordinary regular hours at present?—Not quite; on some days we leave off at four.

5341. Have you exceeded those hours at any time during the month of June?—No, I think not.

5342. You call this the summer season?—Yes.

5343. Supposing that this Bill passed, and limited the hours for which women could be employed, what number of women should you have to employ additionally?—I should have to employ one-fifth more.

5344. What number would that be?—It would be about half a dozen.

5345. Then the difference which this Bill would make to you would be the six additional women?—Six additional women; then there would be the boys, which would make it up to 10 or 12 altogether.

5346. Mr. *Turner.*] In answer to Mr. Crook, you said that you would require about one-fifth more to get through the work if this Bill passed?—Yes.

5347. If you and all the bleachers in your district were to require 20 per cent. more

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more of hands to get through the work, and you had a slack time when you could not employ that number of hands, would they be likely to come in that quantity to these works, or would they not seek employment elsewhere?—I think they would seek other employment.

5348. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Your difficulty of finding hands when you wanted them would be increased?—No doubt of it, because the additional hands would know perfectly well that in the flat time they would be discharged; they must be discharged, or else only earn very small wages.

John Keely, Esq., called in; and Examined.

John Keely, Esq.

5349. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee the nature of your occupation?—We are dyers of silk, cotton, cotton lace, cotton stockings, and various articles, a mixture of both cotton and silk, and we are also finishers of the stockings.

5350. How many people do you employ?—Sometimes we employ as many as 100, and they again drop down to 80; now we are employing about 85.

5351. Can you classify them?—Yes. The majority are men. We have 57 men out of the number, whose wages run from 14 *s.* to 35 *s.*, the great majority of them having 18 *s.*, 20 *s.*, and 25 *s.* Then we have eight youths above 16, and not 18; their average wages are from 10 *s.* to 13 *s.* We have three boys, 13 and not 16; their wages are from 5 *s.* to 7 *s.* Three boys above 12, and not above 13, 4 *s.* 6 *d.* to 5 *s.* 6 *d.* Three boys 10, and not over 12, from 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* 6 *d.* Three boys above 9 and under 10, which is the youngest we take, 2 *s.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Those young boys are employed merely in turning and tacking stockings. We employ two grown women; that is to say, above 18, at 9 *s.* and 10 *s.* per week, and one girl at 5 *s.* per week. That is the number of hands we employ.

5352. Is there any steam machinery employed in your establishment?—Not in connexion with the boys; none of our hands under 18 work at machinery.

5353. Do any of the women work at machinery?—We have only two women, and they sit in a room mending stockings. They heat it at their own pleasure; they have a fireplace.

5354. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—The standard hours are as follow: in summer from six to six, with two hours for meals; in autumn from seven to seven, with two hours for meals; in winter from eight to seven, with one hour for meals; that is a provision in consequence of the weather. Our business requires daylight, and we cannot begin till daylight appears. In dyeing, when we have to match the pattern, which is now the usual practice, for we can scarcely do anything without matching, we are obliged to let the men get their breakfast before they come. Therefore they come at eight and give over at seven, for their day.

5355. Therefore, in point of fact, you adopt at present a ten hours' system?—Yes; that is excepting occasional occurrences. In the spring, we go from seven to seven, the same as in the autumn, until the days get long. But our business requires daylight, and therefore in winter it is useless for us to attempt to begin before eight, or sometimes nine o'clock. If the men get there at eight, they can seldom begin until nine, because we must see the colour. Then again, we have to leave off sometimes at three, and sometimes at four; the days are exceedingly short. We cannot dye anything after daylight, excepting black; black we can proceed with, but not in colours. If this Bill were to pass, compelling us to restrict our hours, it would be quite impossible to carry on the business.

5356. You therefore wish the Committee to understand that it is the opinion of the employers in your business that a Bill preventing their working after six o'clock at night, all through the year, would be very injurious to their business?—Yes, decidedly, because in the middle of the day we are obliged to collect all the hands we have, in order to get rid of the dyeing while the daylight continues, and then after daylight has gone we have to get up the stove, and prepare again for the next morning. And it would be impossible for us to adopt a regular system of business, in two or three months of the year, particularly in the autumn and early in the spring. In the summer season, as we are now, the men are losing time.

5357. Do you ever exceed your usual hours?—Yes, very frequently; we go to eight or nine o'clock at night with the adult labour, but we employ so very few juveniles that they generally give over, and sometimes do not work more than half

half a day. But they frequently have to wait till the evening till the van comes in, to see what there is to prepare for the next morning; when the van comes in, if there is nothing very important, they can give over; sometimes they have to wait three or four hours till the van comes.

5358. Then are the Committee to understand that in your branch of business it is not necessary that all your hands should be employed simultaneously?—It is necessary that the boys whom we keep to prepare these goods for the men should attend to them after the van comes in, or otherwise the men would have nothing to go on with the next morning.

5359. Mr. *Kirk*.] By the van coming in, do you mean goods coming from Nottingham to your works?—I mean the van with the goods from the different warehouses, to see what orders there are.

5360. You send in a van in the morning to collect goods from the warehouses, and bring them to your works?—Yes.

5361. And a portion of the hands have to wait until that van comes?—Yes; the van comes in about five or six o'clock; five o'clock generally; and if anything wants preparing we are obliged to set on the hands to do it.

5362. *Chairman*.] We understood you to say that your overhours never exceeded from eight to nine o'clock at night?—Those have been the average times last year and this; before that they did not average three hours a week during the year through; but in some periods of the year, I believe, as at the present period, some of the hands lose two days; if the men had not an opportunity at another part of the year to make that up, they would be in a very bad position; in fact, our people generally prefer working a few hours over. If our men were asked the question (which I have frequently done), they would say that they prefer rather a limited number of hands; they do not like too many hands; so that what they lose in the flat time they shall have an opportunity of gaining again.

5363. Have you had any conversation with those whom you employ upon the subject of this Bill?—Nothing more than that I made some inquiries amongst them before I came. Their universal opinion is, that it would be impossible to adopt the system of rigid hours; because, if so, we must employ a very much larger number of hands, and then, as soon as the push is over, they must go away. It would be a very great inconvenience, not only to the men but to us, because we should have to take incompetent persons in who had not been trained to the business.

5364. Mr. *Davison*.] The lace business may be termed fancy work or fancy business?—Quite so.

5365. Do you believe, from your experience in the trade, that it would be advantageous to that trade, or, indeed, I should say possible, to extend the factory system to a fancy trade?—Decidedly not; I told Mr. Tremenheere so when he was in Nottingham, and took him into our works, and showed him the work which the boys had to do, and showed him the atmosphere which they had to sit in; and he said that he should himself consider that any Act of that sort should not apply to the lace or hosiery trades of Nottingham; and when I came to London last Session, I saw Mr. Butt, and upon referring Mr. Butt to the report of Mr. Tremenheere, he said, "I had no idea of its at all affecting Nottingham—the lace trade and hosiery trade."

5366. In the factories which are subject to the Ten Hours' Act, they have a stock of materials always on hand?—Yes.

5367. Then they can go on manufacturing that stock, and selling it?—Certainly.

5368. In your department you are making fancy goods, which require, as I understand it, to be disposed of immediately upon being manufactured, or as early as possible?—The case is even worse than that.

5369. In what respect?—For this reason: it did not use to be so in my experience; I have been in the business 30 years, and about 20 or 25 years ago there was no difficulty in manufacturing stock, but there is an impossibility of manufacturing stock now, for the following reasons: the majority of the American buyers, as well as the foreign buyers, when they come into the market, not only come to buy certain goods, but they bring certain colours, and they order goods of certain colours, and they must have them and no others; of course the manufacturer gets the colours; he has not them in stock; very frequently the silk has to be thrown, or the cotton has to be bought, or the spun silk has to be spun; some time elapses, and it very often happens that the dyer is driven to the last emergency to get the things forward; but no manufacturer in Nottingham would undertake

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to manufacture gloves or hose of certain colours without a positive order; a man would be worse than deranged to do so; he would be a fit subject for an asylum.

5370. Mr. *Packe.*] Are there any children under nine years of age who work in your establishment?—Not any. When this subject was named to Mr. Butt last Session by myself, he said "I think the Nottingham lace and hosiery might be exempt, and if you will write a clause which you think will have that tendency, I shall have no objection to insert it in the Bill." This clause was then written, "And be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to or interfere with the lace and hosiery trade, or any process thereof, or in anywise relating thereto, anything in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding." Mr. Butt said that he had no objection to insert that.

5371. Mr. *Davison.*] And Mr. Tremenheere was of the same opinion?—Quite so; Mr. Tremenheere says in his report that he recommended Nottingham to be omitted from this Act.

5372. And you have a very decided opinion upon the subject yourself?—Decidedly; I apprehend that it would be impossible to carry on the business under such restrictions; it is quite a fancy trade, both in lace and in hosiery; the buyer now comes into the market and selects his patterns, and in nine cases out of ten they have to be made, bleached, and finished.

5373. According to the taste of the purchaser?—Yes.

5374. Mr. *Turner.*] Does not the observation which you have made as to the objection to legislation for Nottingham on account of its being the seat of a fancy business, in some degree apply to all finishers of goods, whatever they may be?—In the hosiery and lace trade, certainly.

5375. Even beyond the hosiery and lace trade?—I think in the present state of trade, that is so.

5376. You think that even the Lancashire bleachers might be put to very great inconvenience if they were compelled to work only a certain number of hours?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

5377. They must work according to the orders?—Yes. I have known the time when we could dye goods in the dark; parties bought them as a regular standard class of goods, but now there are not two customers who have the same range of colour; there would be an end of our management if the Legislature were to interfere.

5378. Mr. *Crook.*] Have you ever been in the Lancashire bleach-works?—I have been in Lancashire, and in most parts of the country where bleaching and dyeing is carried on.

5379. Have you been in the bleach-works?—Yes.

5380. Be kind enough to tell the Committee whose works you were in?—They were Ainsworth's.

5381. Did you go through them?—I was merely taken over them, but I know the nature of bleaching, both in hosiery and in lace.

5382. Have you been frequently in Manchester?—I have, among the dyers there.

5383. But this is with reference to the Lancashire bleachers?—I have not been so much among the bleachers as I have been among the dyers.

5384. Have you had any conversation with the master bleachers of Manchester with reference to this Act?—No.

5385. You have had no means of forming a judgment as to the opinion of the Lancashire bleachers?—No; I can only form an opinion of this sort, that any interference with the bleacher and dyer, or with the manufacturer, in any form, would be an inconvenience.

5386. Do you think there is any reason to distinguish between the bleachers and the factories; the worsted and other factories?—I am not able to speak as to the factories at all.

5387. Are you very busy now?—No.

5388. Is this your summer season?—This is not our busy season; this is a season when the buyers are not in the market, and the orders are not given.

5389. What season of the year do you consider specially your season?—Principally in the autumn and winter we are most busy, and running a little into the spring; the autumn and the winter are the most difficult periods of the year which we have to contend with.

5390. That would be six months at the close of the year?—Yes.

5391. You have meal-times, I think you say?—Two hours.

5392. Are

5392. Are they pretty regularly observed; do the workpeople turn out when the bell rings, or do they go just when they like?—We have stated times; they come in the morning in summer at six, and go to breakfast at nine; they return at 10, go to dinner at one, and return at two.

5393. So that if this Bill passed, it would not affect the regularity of meal-times?—Not at all.

5394. You say that you very frequently exceed these hours with adult labour during the six months at the latter end of the year, that is to say, from eight to seven, which is only nine hours a day?—Yes.

5395. But not with juveniles?—With juveniles we very seldom much exceed the time.

5396. How do you define the word "juveniles;" does it extend to all those boys?—No, it extends to about the age of 16.

5397. Of which there are 20 boys, so that it extends to all but four boys; supposing this Act passed, to what extent would it necessitate the increase of the labour of boys?—We should have to increase the number, because of the time which they would have to do it in.

5398. That would apply to the 20 boys, the two women, and the girls?—Yes.

5399. As far as I understand you, you would want two women extra during the winter months, in order to make up the difference caused by this Bill?—I do not know that that would affect the women at all, with the work that they have to do.

5400. It would affect the boys?—Yes, the juveniles.

5401. This Bill would impose upon you the necessity of having a few more boys?—The number would depend upon the time that we had to get the work done in.

5402. Mr. *Davison.*] Was it after you had pointed out to Mr. Tremenheere the different processes, that he came to the conclusion that it would be wrong to apply the Factory Act to your trade?—Yes, after taking him into the place, and showing him the work which we did, showing him that there was no machinery near the boys: he said, that he considered that in any Act which was passed Nottingham lace and hosiery should be exempted; that there was nothing in them to call for an Act.

5403. Mr. *Kirk.*] Did you read with care the 13th section of the Bill of last year?—I did not take very particular notice of it.

5404. Would you like to have an inspector going in, and examining minutely every portion of your works, and every person employed there?—Certainly not.

5405. Does that form one of your objections to the Bill?—One of my greatest objections is to have an inspector at all upon the premises.

5406. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Could you carry on your works without these juveniles?—No, it would be quite impossible; those juveniles perform work that it is impossible for a man or for machinery to do.

5407. If the time of the employment of your juveniles was restricted, would it restrict the labour of the adults to the same extent?—To a very considerable extent. Those boys perform two or three sorts of work that no man can do, and that no machinery can be made to supersede.

5408. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that those juveniles do not practically work more than 10 hours a day now?—They do not in any of the dye houses of Nottingham, or any other place which I have ever been in, and I am only surprised to find that Nottingham is included in the report, without making any reference to Coventry, Macclesfield, Manchester, Leeds, Spitalfields, all the great dyeing districts, of which we only form a mere speck. They perform the same operations and employ the same hands; the same hands that work for us, work at Coventry. I see no mention made of them in the report, and if this Act passed, it would affect them.

5409. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Was your trade at all connected with the arrangement which was made some few years ago in Nottingham between the employers and their workmen in the bleaching trade?—Not at all; we are not bleachers.

5410. In your trade of dyeing have you had no such arrangement?—No such arrangement.

5411. Are you aware of any strong feeling on the part of your workmen upon this question?—Not any; I never heard any opinion expressed at all; indeed I believe they are wholly ignorant of it, except from what I have communicated to

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them myself. In fact, the skein-dyeing is a business in which I never heard any complaint from the workpeople.

5412. One of the workmen examined before the Committee has spoken of the young people in Nottingham not having facilities for education. Is Nottingham, in your opinion, defective in educational institutions?—Not at all; I believe there are great facilities at Nottingham, as much as in any town, I should imagine, in England, as a manufacturing town; there are great efforts made, but there is a great disinclination on the part of the parents to pay attention to the matter from a variety of causes, drunkenness and insubordination of all sorts.

5413. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you consider the trade of Coventry, and of the other places which you have mentioned, similar in character to that of Nottingham?—As far as skein-dyeing, quite so.

5414. You say that you are surprised that they have not been mentioned particularly in the Bill?—I am surprised that dyers are named at all; but I am more surprised that those places are not named, the dyers of Coventry, Macclesfield and Manchester being the most extensive dyers in the kingdom.

5415. Is not Nottingham a fair sample of skein-dyeing?—No; there is more done in Macclesfield in one day than in Nottingham in a month.

5416. In your neighbourhood would you not consider Nottingham a fair sample of the district of this branch of the trade, namely, of the hosiery and lace?—Quite so, it is a branch; but I was only referring to silk dyeing and cotton dyeing in skein, which is our principal business; the Coventry, Macclesfield, Manchester and Leek dyers are much more extensively engaged in it than we are, and it rather surprised me to find that a commissioner was sent to Nottingham, to inspect Nottingham as to its dyeing, it being a town which was so insignificant, compared with other parts of the country.

5417. Are you not aware that the inquiries of the Commissioner extended to other districts besides Nottingham with reference to dyeing?—Yes, to Spitalfields; but then it was only to the manufacturers and dyers connected; it was not to the dyers as a body. If you refer to the report, you will find that there are no dyers of Spitalfields, except those who are manufacturers and dyers.

5418. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that probably the reason why the Commissioner went to Nottingham was, that there is a good deal of bleaching in Nottingham?—Yes; they have hosiery and lace.

5419. Are you aware that by the terms of his commission, Mr. Tremenheere was only to examine into the bleaching?—Mr. Tremenheere called upon us.

5420. Did you know what the terms of his commission were?—I did not.

5421. His commission was, "Whereas it appears to us expedient that a commission should forthwith issue, for the purpose of making due inquiry how far it may be advisable to extend the provisions of the Acts for the better regulation of Mills and Factories to bleaching works established in certain parts of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: Now know ye," &c.?—Yes, that I know.

5422. Therefore there being bleaching establishments in Nottingham, was not it necessary that Mr. Tremenheere should visit Nottingham?—I should have taken no notice of the Bill if it had not mentioned dyeing.

5423. Mr. *Crook.*] You mentioned an observation made by Mr. Butt; I do not know whether you consider that as a promise?—Mr. Butt made a promise to insert that clause.

5424. Are you aware that Mr. Butt is only one of the supporters of this measure, and that he has only one voice in the arrangement?—I understood that Mr. Butt had charge of the Bill; that was my understanding.

5425. Do you suppose that a gentleman having charge of a Bill has entire control as to its provisions?—Certainly not; but when I named the circumstance, he seemed rather surprised to think that it affected Nottingham at all.

5426. Do you estimate his opinion or promise as anything more than the promise of an individual?—No.

5427. Mr. *Kirk.*] Referring to the question which his Lordship has asked as to the instructions issued to the commissioners or the nature of the commission, are you not aware that the Preamble of the Bill is in these words: "Whereas it is expedient to provide for the regulation of the employment of females and young persons under 18 years of age employed in bleaching, finishing and dyeing, making-up and packing"?—Yes; that drew my attention to the Bill, the word "dyeing"?

5428. Therefore you, as a dyer, were necessarily included in that Bill?—I considered so. *John Keely*, Esq.

5429. And that was the reason why you sought to be excluded by a special provision?—Decidedly so. 6 July 1857.

5430. I was rather struck by an answer which you gave; you were asked whether you could not dispense with the labour of the boys, and you said that you could not?—Yes.

5431. Will you inform us what work these young boys do that you could not dispense with?—Yes; one department is tying the silk and cotton, which they have upon two bobbins extended; it is tied round with string. These boys, we find, at about 12 years of age, acquire a dexterity in that sort of work which they lose again when they get a little older, and which no older person can acquire; they do it better and quicker than an older boy or a grown person. Another department which we employ them in, is that of turning stockings: it is impossible, as some of the stockings are now made, for a person with a large hand to get it down; therefore the youngest boys that we have are employed in that department. Then, when they get from stocking turning, they go to tying, and the boys are removed from one department to another as they get older.

5432. Do you find that the fingers of the young hands are more pliant and supple for these purposes than when they become older?—Decidedly so.

James Hardcastle, Esq., called in; and Examined.

5433. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I BELIEVE you are the proprietor of the Firwood and Bradshaw Bleach-works, in the county of Lancaster?—I am. *J. Hardcastle*, Esq.

5434. Will you state to the Committee what is the number of workpeople that you employ?—I have at Firwood, above 21 years of age, 236 males and 23 females, making a total of 259; from 18 to 21 I have 31 males and 7 females, total 38; from 13 to 18 I have 25 males and 6 females, total 31; from 11 to 13 I have 10 males and 1 female, total 11; under 11 and above 10 years of age I have one male, making a total number of 303 males and 37 females; the grand total being 340. At Bradshaw I have, above 21 years of age, 163 males and 14 females, total 177; from 18 to 21 years I have 21 males and 4 females, total 25; from 13 to 18 I have 29 males and 2 females, total 31; from 11 to 13 I have four males and no females, total 4. Under 11 and above 10 I have 1 male and no female, total 1; total 218 males and 20 females: grand total 238.

5435. Are these two several establishments to which you have referred different in their operations?—At Firwood we are employed mainly in bleaching, dyeing, and finishing for the shipping trade, and at Bradshaw in bleaching, dyeing, and finishing mainly for the home trade, and some little calico printing.

5436. How many years have you been in this trade?—I have been 40 years a bleacher.

5437. Have you been engaged in any other trades besides bleaching?—I have been a dyer 30 years, and a printer about 25 years.

5438. You have also, I think, some colliery works?—I have been a coalmaster for a considerable number of years.

5439. Were you at any time of your life connected with the merchant department in Manchester?—For 10 years I was a principal partner in one of the largest mercantile houses in Manchester, in connexion with my Bradshaw works.

5440. You have during all your life resided among the workpeople around you in your neighbourhood, and have had means of knowing something about their character and habits?—I have all my life resided amongst them, and mixed a good deal with them, and thoroughly know their character and habits; not only those of my own people, but generally those of the workpeople of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire.

5441. At one period of your life you had also some experience as a spinner and manufacturer, I think?—No, I never condescended to touch the cotton until after it had passed the loom. My father was a large spinner and manufacturer, one of the oldest in the trade, and the most extensive; he spun from the stuff that makes the coarsest counterpane, up to that which makes the finest lace; and he manufactured every description of goods from the coarsest counterpane to the finest muslin; but I was not personally employed except as a warper and weaver; I warped for my pocket-money, and wove for instruction.

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5442. Your operations in this bleaching, and dyeing and printing trade are for various parts of the world?—For every part of the world.

5443. When was your attention first drawn to the attempts at legislation upon this question?—The attempt to legislate with a view to regulate the labour of women and young people in bleach-works, I think I first had my attention called to in 1845. Sir James Graham was then Home Secretary, and Lord Shaftesbury, then Lord Ashley, had a Bill before Parliament for regulating that description of employment in print works, and his Bill included bleach-works. This was not a Government Bill, and Sir James Graham, as Home Secretary, instituted inquiries; he satisfied himself that there was no case whatever for including bleach-works; he spoke upon the subject in the House of Commons (I think in Committee), and that part of the Bill was struck out. Sir James Graham, I believe, took a great deal of pains to make himself fully acquainted with the subject at that time.

5444. Do you think that the reasons which led the House of Commons at that time to exempt bleach-works from the operation of legislation exist at the present moment?—I believe that if there was no reason then for including them, there is less than none now.

5445. You do not think that any new grounds for legislation in respect of the bleaching business have arisen since that period?—Decidedly not.

5446. Rather the other way?—Yes; the reverse.

5447. Have you read carefully the four different Bills which during the last two or three Sessions have been introduced into the House?—Yes.

5448. What is your opinion, say of Bill No. 2 of last Session; what would be its operation if passed into a law in reference to your own works?—I must shut them up; I could not carry them on.

5449. Would it create a difference in the mode of employment between parties in the same works?—In my Bradshaw works I have printing as well as bleaching, dyeing and finishing. If that Bill No. 2 were passed into a law, I should be under the operation of two different Acts of Parliament in the same works, probably in the same apartments; certainly in the same apartments; the one the Print Works Act, and the other this Bill, No. 2.

5450. Are you aware whether that Bill to which you have referred included or excluded similar operations to your own in the bleaching and dyeing of woollens?—This Bill, No. 2, of 1856, applies only to linen and cotton. The other three Bills, Lord Shaftesbury's Bill, the Bill of 1854, and No. 1, of 1856, are general in their application; that is to say, those Bills apply to linen, cotton, silk, woollen, worsted, and all the rest of it, and to the mixed fabrics and all those things, and the mixed threads. This one applies only to the trade or business of a bleacher or dyer of linen or cotton goods; it does not even apply to the mixed fabric; to linen and cotton goods; only linen or cotton.

5451. Then it would not apply to the mixed, woollen and cotton goods?—No.

5452. Which goods you bleach occasionally?—Yes, and dye too.

5453. So that as far as regards that department, the Bill would leave you in your present position?—Just so.

5454. So far as you are acquainted with woollen goods, is there any reason why cotton should be singled out for legislation more than woollen?—I have had experience as a bleacher and dyer of mousseline de laines, that is to say, woollen with cotton warp; and the mode of bleaching and dyeing them is similar to the mode of bleaching and dyeing goods entirely of wool; I see no reason, I confess, for their exemption. I consider the operation of bleaching woollen to be not so healthy as the operation of bleaching cotton; woollen is bleached mainly by the fumes of sulphur.

5455. How are the machines in your works driven; by steam or by water-power?—By both.

5456. Did you hear the evidence which the honourable Member near me gave the other day, Mr. Kirk?—I did.

5457. Are you in somewhat a similar position with regard to the supply of water as he stated?—I am in precisely the same position, with this exception, that his works are the second on the stream, I think he said, after the large reservoir, and mine are about the fifth or sixth from the reservoir. We have erected a large reservoir, perhaps the largest reservoir in the United Kingdom, more than 100 feet deep; that was with a view to regulate the supply of water in the stream from its situation through the Irwell down into the Mersey; notwithstanding

standing that, our supply of water is not so regular as to enable us to work regular hours with it.

5458. So that any legislation which would restrict these hours still more, would tell upon the parties who had, like yourself, to have the use of water in that irregular mode?—Yes, it would; and it would tell infinitely more injuriously perhaps upon those who had not a large reservoir at the head of their stream.

5459. There was a part of the Bill to which you have referred which professed to deal with the warehouses in Manchester, but I think it now excludes them?—Bill No. 1 professes to deal with them; but Bill No. 2 professes not to do so. Those are two Bills of the same Session.

5460. Have you any particular acquaintance with the operations carried on in those establishments?—Yes, considerable experience.

5461. What effect would a Bill have excluding interference with similar operations to your own in the establishments in Manchester, and yet retaining interference with the same operations in your own works?—I must say that the finishing at Manchester is precisely of the same character as the finishing at my works; but it is carried on in rooms not so airy and spacious as my rooms. When they finish in Manchester, in many places they hook and fold grey cloth, from whence dust arises, more than arises from any portion of my goods; and altogether I should say that there is more to object to in that description of work in Manchester than there is in the bleach-works which I know. Then as to its effect, provided they were free from restriction, and I were restricted, it would be this: that I must place all my machinery in one township, and have all my bleaching and dyeing in another township; and, having done that, I could do as I pleased; I should be free from this proposed legislative enactment. I must either do that, or I must give up business. Before I became a dyer, the practice in Manchester was to send their goods to a dyer to be dyed, and then to a finisher to be finished. They sent to me goods to be finished which were dyed in Manchester. The inconvenience arising from this in one way or other, both to me, the finisher, and to the merchant, was such, that I said I had better dye them myself, and that was the very reason (I was not looking to gain anything by it, but with a view to the convenience of the merchant, and the employment of my people), that I began dyeing. Now a merchant can go and buy his grey cloth; he can send it to me with his orders, and I send it to him ready for the ship, ready for any market in the world; he has no further trouble.

5462. That is in consequence of having a finishing, packing and making-up department in your own works?—Yes, the whole thing being under one management.

5463. Supposing the Legislature restricted you in that department, would it lead to dispensing with the labour of these women and children?—It is hard to say what it would lead to; I think we must contrive to do without them; at all events we must do with fewer of them, and I do not know how; it is a most puzzling question; I heard Mr. Tremenheere put that question to one of my oldest managers; I think he has been 40 years with me; I think he has been there as long as I have. Mr. Tremenheere put it in a very insinuating manner: "You look like a very clever fellow," and all that kind of thing; "could not you manage to go on without these women; supposing they all went away at six o'clock, do not you think you could contrive to manage?" the man replied, "I have been trying at that all my life, sir, and I never could do it yet, and I do not believe the man is alive that could do it." I heard my man give that answer to Mr. Tremenheere.

5464. Mr. *Kirk*.] Is that recorded?—It is not.

5465. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Turning to another branch of evidence, we have had some evidence given regarding the education in your district; I wish to ask you whether there are any schools in the neighbourhood of your works which these workpeople can attend if they please to do so?—Plenty.

5466. As regards their opportunities of religious instruction, are there any churches and other places of worship?—Yes, churches and other places of worship.

5467. In the neighbourhood of both these establishments?—Yes.

5468. Are there any Sunday schools?—Yes.

5469. With these advantages, do you consider the class of workpeople whom you employ on the whole a tolerably well educated and respectable class of workpeople?—I believe that they have had better opportunities of being educated than ever my father had, or even the father of the late Sir Robert Peel had, and that they are as

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respectable and as well educated as either of those gentlemen ever was—I mean taking them as a whole.

5470. Comparing them with the other classes of workpeople in the same neighbourhood, how do you think they stand in intelligence and respectability and education?—I do not wish to disparage any; I am speaking of my own; I believe that they are superior to any.

5471. Do they remain long in your employ, or are they a moveable population?—It would take a great deal to drive them away; there are numbers of them who have been with me 15, 20 and 30 years; they have been born there, the greater portion of them.

5472. I think in the neighbourhood of your works there are several cotton factories which are under restrictions as regards the hours; do you know of any instances in which you have lost your workpeople from your bleach-works to go to those mills?—No, I am not aware that I know of any instance. I do know this, that I recommend the parents of young girls to get them into works for small wares, belonging to the Phillips's, which are in my neighbourhood, and which is very nice employment for females. I could not, if I would, employ the whole of the females of my large class of men: the number of females in my works is very small.

5473. In the statement which you have given us, the number of females and young people is very small compared to the whole number that you employ?—Yes; the number of females is very small indeed, and I recommend their parents to get them into Phillips's small-ware establishment.

5474. With regard to the health of your workpeople, what is your opinion on that point?—I believe that they are healthy, and hearty, and strong, and vigorous, and that there are very few such people to be seen anywhere.

5475. I believe a few days ago you had an opportunity of presenting the whole of the people in your employment before the public at a dinner which you gave them?—Yes.

5476. Was there any notice of that taken in your local papers?—Some one sent me a copy of the "Bolton Chronicle;" it makes some allusion to it; and I had also sent to me a copy of the "Manchester Examiner and Times," and the "Manchester Courier," I think; they are both rather strong in their remarks. The "Bolton Chronicle" says on this point: "The workpeople began to assemble in the dining-rooms between two and three o'clock, and were soon present to the number of about 1,000; and not the least gratifying sight of that joyous day was the ruddy and healthful countenances of so many people, especially the younger portion, the young men and women." My colliers were amongst them, but very few indeed were invited, except those who actually worked with us; we should have had too many if all their families had come. Again, the Vicar of Bolton makes these remarks: "The Rev. H. Powell, Vicar of Bolton, was called upon to respond," to something, I do not know what it was; it was the health of the Bishop of Manchester, I think. "The reverend gentleman, who was received with loud cheers, said he rose with much pleasure to thank them for the honour which they had done to that class of persons to whom he had the honour of belonging, in responding so heartily to the toast proposed, 'The Bishop of Manchester and the clergy of the diocese;' and if there was one regret which he had in thus rising to address them, it was simply this, that the Bishop of Manchester and all the clergy of the diocese were not present with them, to enjoy that truly happy scene. He had never had the gratification before of being present on such an occasion as that; but he could truly say, as he had had the pleasure once, he should not object to have it again; and he could truly say, that an assembly such as that, was one that augured good, not only to that immediate neighbourhood of Bradshaw and Bolton, but, he should say, to the whole interests of their beloved country. In the south of England, where he had lived some years of his life, he did not think they understood what sort of people we were in the north of England; he said 'we,' because he was here now in the north of England, and considered himself one of us; and he thought they had very strange notions of the relationship subsisting between employers and the large numbers whom they employed; now, he should like those who had an idea that these things were not as they ought to be in this part of the country, to be present at such a meeting as that; and if they could only see the large mass of intelligent faces, of smiling and happy countenances around them on that occasion, he thought they would think it a very good thing indeed to be in the north of England, and to be in connexion some way

way or other with what were called the manufacturing interests. He was speaking now on behalf of the bishops and clergy of the diocese, and, though speaking as one of the clergy, and though it might be thought selfish or professional, yet he was convinced of this, that the people of this country had no better friends than the clergy of the Church of England," and so on. If the Committee will allow me, I will just read what I said in reply to the vicar, and then we shall have done with this; this was unpremeditated, both on the part of the vicar and myself, and I am sorry that your Lordship was not there; you were invited:—" James Hardcastle, Esq., on rising to acknowledge the compliment, was greeted with a renewed outburst of applause. He spoke to the following effect:—I do not suppose that you will all know who the gentleman is that has done me the honour to propose my health, and who has spoken so many plain truths, and in so very good-humoured a way; it is the new vicar of Bolton, Mr. Powell (loud cheers). I cannot wish him a better wish than that he may be a better vicar than the old one (hear, hear); his presence here to-day, and the manner in which he has addressed you, and the words that have fallen from his lips, I think, augur well for the future, as regards our vicar (cheers). I, as the father of the young man whom we have all met to honour this day, will make a similar wish for him to that I have made for the new vicar, that he may be a better man than his father (loud cheers, the company rising and applauding). I believe that the trade that he is bound to follow is one of his own choosing. It was not exactly my choosing that I came to be a bleacher. I came out of duty to my father, because he wished me. It is 40 years since, and I will tell you this, that if I had to do it again I would not change my trade (hear, hear). I believe there is no trade, taking it upon the whole, in connexion with the cotton manufacture, where there is more generous freedom, more good-will betwixt master and man, more good-will amongst the men themselves, or where there are honester lads or bonnier lasses (enthusiastic applause). And then again, if a young fellow wants a day's hunting, he has nothing to do but get the " night lump " and he can have it (laughter); and he will be none the worse for his " night lump," and none the worse for his exercise, though rather stiff when he has done it (hear, hear, and renewed laughter); I say this, because there are other branches of our manufacture in which there are no such opportunities of freedom and the true enjoyment of life; and therefore I say for myself, if I had life to begin again I would not choose another trade (hear, hear); and I am happy, indeed, that my son has chosen this trade. Now the gentleman that has done us the honour to preside to-day is Mr. James Ormrod, a name connected with that of Hardcastle, in business more than 60 years; and throughout the whole period of that time, I venture to say, the names have never been dishonourably connected, or engaged in any dishonourable transaction (hear, hear). He has kindly come forward to-day to preside over this company, and I am infinitely obliged to him." Now I have read this, I have told you what the vicar says about the intelligent appearance of my workpeople; I have told you what the editor says about their personal appearance, and what I think myself; I have read what I said before them; and if I were a tyrant and an oppressor, if I were what I have been called, is it possible that I could have said this before all those people?

5477. Does that report which you have read to the Committee proceed from any reporter of the press whom you engaged to be present on that occasion?—I had nothing to do with this; I believe that our people sent to the different newspapers on different sides of the question, to say that they should be glad if they would send a reporter; there was a reporter there, I believe, from the " Examiner and Times," of Manchester, and another from the " Manchester Courier," I think I saw, and I had their papers sent me; I think the " Manchester Guardian" declined to send one; the " Examiner and Times" has taken up the cause in favour of legislation on this question; but the account there given of the appearance of the people is infinitely more flattering than what is in the Bolton paper.

5478. Without any influence at all from you?—No influence whatever, not the slightest.

5479. The " Manchester Guardian," I believe, is not in favour of legislation?—It is not in favour of legislation; it is opposed to it.

5480. Will you tell the Committee what you consider to be the average hours of labour in your bleaching and dyeing-works and the finishing departments?—I

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gave to Mr. Tremenheere a table of wages in 1854; it is at page 105 of the report of the Evidence.

5481. *Chairman.*] That is in the Appendix?—In the Appendix.

5482. Mr. *Cheetham.*] That shows the number of days' wages, and the number of working days in each month?—Yes; I gave him this table, beginning "Number of working days." What is put before it is Mr. Tremenheere's view. He says, "Table showing the number of days' wages (calculated to be earned in about eight hours) made in one of the principal bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Bolton, by each set of workpeople employed, beyond or below the number of the working days in each month." Now I think it would be totally impossible for me to write anything so utterly void of meaning or grammar, as I was taught it at the grammar school at Bolton, as that sentence; I can make nothing of it. What I gave him, began, "Number of working days per month."

5483. What are the average hours of labour in your works; that table, I suppose, will supply an answer to that question?—That table shows an average which would not exactly be an answer to your question, and therefore I wish to explain to the Committee, that which this thing of Mr. Tremenheere's does not explain. This shows each description of labour; Mr. Kirk will find beetlers near the bottom of it, working upon machines similar to the model which we saw the other day. He will find that in January 1854, my beetlers only earned 8¼ days; February, 23; March, 27½; April, 25¼; May, 19½; June, 22½; July, 21½; August, 27; September, 27¼; October, 22; November, 12¼; December, 15.

5484. The average being 20 days 10 hours per month?—Yes, that is the number of days' wages earned; but it is not the number of hours worked per day; this means the average of days' wages earned; but my lads will come to their work at five o'clock in the morning, and will come off at one o'clock, with a day and a half's wages in their pockets, earned in eight hours.

5485. Mr. *Kirk.*] They work by the piece?—Yes; I called the attention of Mr. Tremenheere to men who were going off; I said, "Go and talk to them, they are fine lads;" he would not go near them. They were going off to make their arrangements for the next day, with a day and a half's wages in their pockets; they were fine vigorous lads as ever you saw in your life. I said to Mr. Tremenheere, "Go and speak to them;" no, that did not suit his book at all. You will see by what is here stated, that the prices are calculated so as to enable the worker to earn a day's wage within eight hours, whenever skill or much strength is required. Now the prices by which these earnings were made were established in 1830; I have never altered them since. This is the list (*referring*) and I wish, if possible, to make the honourable Committee understand it: this is the hiring of one person; these are the rules and regulations, and these the prices; the wages of labour of all the different descriptions of work.

5486. Mr. *Cheetham.*] So that when you hire a young person he is at the same time informed of the rate at which he is hired?—All is together.

5487. And those prices have been unchanged since 1830?—Yes; but, in answer to your question, the only mode of coming at it is by calculation; I know exactly in what time each sort and description of work can be done; and my belief is, that the average hours worked during 1854 did not reach 10½ hours per day.

5488. Upon each individual?—Yes, upon the whole of the persons employed; I have taken out the month of May this year, both at Firwood and at Bradshaw; that I believe does not reach 9½ hours at Firwood, nor more than 8 hours at Bradshaw. I believe that in May this year, the average hours of labour at Firwood would not exceed 9½, and at Bradshaw not 8 hours.

5489. Can you explain the difference between the two; why one should be longer than the other?—At Firwood we are mainly employed for shippers, and we have a very steady old, long-established connexion, and we are generally pretty well at work there. At Bradshaw I am more in the home trade, and I find that we cannot keep up quite so much work; but the reason I can hardly tell you; it is difficult to explain it.

5490. Have you any means of control over the hours of labour in your establishments; does it lie with you to make them long or short?—No, it does not indeed lie with me.

5491. Do you think that you could carry on your business upon a regular system under a restriction of 10 hours a day?—I am sure I could not. I think it perhaps desirable to say to the Committee, as you have asked me about the average time, and I have told you what it was in May, that I take stock every month

month. I can tell you more, namely, that in the month of May, the difference between receipts and disbursements was barely sufficient to pay rent and taxes. I have an account of all that I expend upon work which comes in, and all that I get for it. Rent and taxes I add myself; there was barely enough to pay rent and taxes; at Bradshaw, there was not enough to pay rent and taxes.

5492. Is one cause of the irregularity of the hours in your business the fact of one process of manufacture waiting for another; do all your departments commence and close at the same period, or is there one process in the bleaching which has to wait for the completion of the previous one before the goods can arrive there?—That is necessarily the case from the very outset; the first thing done with the goods on getting to the works is that they are unloaded; they are next taken to the dressing or singeing-plate, they cannot be got to the singeing-plate till they are unloaded; the next thing is to get them to the steeping-holes, they cannot be got to the steeping-holes till after they are singed; and so on throughout every process, one waiting upon another, beginning in the morning with the unloading. Then, again, we will take dyeing: I dye a great deal to pattern; there is a change of atmosphere; the steam, instead of rising out of the dyehouse, stops in it; we cannot dye to pattern; we cannot accomplish it; we cannot see the same colour. I have had such things as brocades, a description of goods for China, done in imitation of silk, and which must be precise in their colour, attempted to be thrown upon my hands; I have had to make allowances for the merest change of shade; we therefore have to stop the pattern dyeing. The goods which are detained have to be got round to go with the lot, and perhaps they cannot be dyed out until the day after; part of the goods are previously dyed of a common colour, but the remainder must be pushed round to go with the lot, and somebody must stop to do it; that leads to an irregularity as to the time when the labour is done, which nothing can control or regulate.

5493. Are the people in your employment engaged upon piecework or upon day's wages?—They are engaged on piecework nearly altogether.

5494. Has that been an arrangement of some standing between you?—It has been an arrangement ever since before I went to the works, more than 40 years ago.

5495. Taking the scale of wages which you have arranged together, how many hours would it take to earn a fair day's wages?—When I made that list in 1830, I calculated that when persons had to use their hand and their head both, they ought to be able to earn a day's wages in eight hours, and I framed my list accordingly. But improvements in various ways, not merely in machinery, but in convenience, and in handing things about, have taken place, and it can be done in less time than that; 7½ and sometimes 7 hours; perhaps less than that, in some departments; but I have taken no advantage of that; the men have had all the advantage. I have not reduced my price in consequence.

5496. Those improvements have resulted in a benefit to the workmen?—Yes, they have it all.

5497. In the severest pushes which you are compelled to make for the execution of your orders, have your workpeople any intervals of time in which they are obliged to wait for their cloth?—Yes, inevitably.

5498. They are not working?—They are sitting there reading and sewing, and the lads go out and play at marbles, and things of that sort, and they amuse themselves. Some of the men will go under the fire-hole and smoke; we allow them to smoke in the fire-hole, and nowhere else, in my works; they may smoke there if they like till they cannot see.

5499. During the 40 years that you have been in the trade, have you ever had a complaint from any of your workpeople about having too much work and too long hours?—Never.

5500. Is the arrangement regarding their work and the hours of work very much a matter of their own settlement?—The work, so long as it is passing through the bleach, that is the whitening department, is tolerably systematic, and so I may say through the dyers. When we come to the finishing, especially after the cloth has become dry, the detail is left to the workpeople themselves mainly; I never interfere; they do it; they are interested in the same degree that I am; they work by the piece; if there is little for me, there is little for them; if there is little for them, there is little for me; we have a common interest, differing in degree. There is one distinction, namely, that I have all the loss to bear, and they have none of it.

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5501. Are the hours which they work at the present time, compared with past years, longer or shorter, upon the whole, do you think?—As compared with past years, they are much shorter, and the thing altogether has been gradually improving ever since I went to the works, as regards the workpeople.

5502. The Committee have had some evidence upon a department in the bleaching, to which their attention has been drawn, called the clamping-rooms; were these rooms objectionable, in your opinion; will you state to the Committee what view you have upon that subject?—I thought that they were objectionable from the very first; this is rather an important point; I should like to state the history of this clamping, for it is in that description of finish where those high temperatures are spoken of. I believe that now everything which was objectionable is removed, perhaps not at all works, but I know that it is entirely removed at some; I contemplate going again into that finish myself.

5503. You have not had an opportunity, I think, of seeing the evidence to which I refer, given before the Committee, about these clamping-rooms?—I have not had an opportunity of seeing any evidence given before this Committee, except that of Mr. Tremenheere on the first day, for which I paid a short-hand writer, as it was refused by the Committee.

5504. Will you explain how those clamping-rooms are superseded?—It was not until Crompton invented the Hall-o'-the-Wood wheel, the mule, (and I live at his birth-place where he invented it) that we could manufacture cambrics and muslins in this country. We began to manufacture them in the neighbourhood of Bolton; the cambric was an imitation of French linen, and the muslin was an imitation of an Indian cotton. Then the question was, how to finish these goods? They had long tables made (I have some of them now), and the pieces were laid upon the table, and the women smoothed them with smoothing irons; that was the beginning. To keep this cloth straight on the table, they got what they called clamps which laid hold of the selviges.

5505. That led to the designation of clamping-rooms?—Yes; the clamps were things about six or eight inches long, which caught the selvige on each side, and stretched the cambric out upon the table. Then they got to finishing the cambrics with calenders, but they continued the finishing of muslins with these clamps, but took the tables away. The cloth was stretched in its width in these clamping-frames; pins were put on the edge of them instead of the iron clamps, similar to the way in which book-muslin is done in Scotland, and the muslins were stretched upon the pins; there was heat applied beneath, for the purpose of drying them. The object was to dry them whilst they were in that stretched out state, so that they would remain in that condition when dried; there were fans under the cloth which did not do much good; they merely disturbed the air. There was a want of ventilation, and the work was very oppressive, I thought, to those engaged in it; whenever I went into that place I wanted to get out of it again. Mr. Bridson invented and took out a patent for an improvement upon the clamping part, and he gave the cloth an oscillating motion whilst it was in the course of drying, instead of standing, whilst stretched out, and thereby it was clearer in the threads, just upon the principle that you see a woman set a cap-border upon an iron, from which he took the idea, I believe. Mr. Ainsworth, in order to get as near as he could to this finish of Mr. Bridson's, without, as he thought, invading the patent, began to move one side of his clamp-frames backwards and forwards, the other standing still, and he got the oscillation motion in that way. I sent for Mr. Bridson, and I said, "Now, I think of going into that patent Victoria finish of yours; what will you charge me?" I could make nothing of him. He did not want me to do it; he wanted to keep it to himself as much as he could, I suppose. He went to see my clamp-frames: I said, "Now, if I go into the thing, it is with this view." There was Morand's patent for a continuous motion whilst drying; the cloth was stretched on leathern straps, with hooks, and passed continuously forward whilst it was being dried. I told Mr. Bridson that my intention was to unite Morand's patent and his own, to let the cloth be progressing and oscillating at the same time. I could not agree with him, and therefore I gave up clamping altogether. Mr. Bridson adopted this idea, and made his machines progressive; we have talked about it from time to time: we are very good friends, and I suggested to him to have a glass screen at each end of his stove, where this progressive motion took place, and where the cloth was being dried and finished, and to dry with a stream of hot air forced by a fan into the place, so that the workers would be at each end, one receiving the cloth at that end,

end, and the other delivering it at this, in a cool atmosphere, whereas the cloth would be drying as hot as you please, this hot place being supplied with a stream of hot air. Mr. Bridson made an improvement upon this idea of mine, by forcing cold air through a hot cockle, which is the same thing, into this place. If an accident happens to the cloth, and the person has to go in, though the air is very hot, it is not oppressive, because it is fresh; but it is only in case of accident that a person will have to go in. Therefore everything objectionable in that, of which so much has been said, as to these excessive temperatures, is, I believe, obviated.

5506. Mr. *Kirk*.] Have you seen the American patent?—No.

5507. They have copper cylinders seven or eight feet in diameter, with that description of hook which keeps the cloth out as you have described it?—I have not seen that; I should like to see it very much; every objection is obviated now, without that.

5508. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Is that objection obviated by what is called the Swiss mode?—Yes; they call it Swiss now; the old name was clamp; I do not know why it is now called Swiss.

5509. So that the result is, that by the improvements which you have just described, the strong objections have been removed in the clamping-rooms?—I do not believe that every one has removed them.

5510. But they are capable of being removed?—Yes; I mean to say that there is no need of legislation with regard to those places, any more than others.

5511. What do you say as to the drying stoves in your establishments?—They are now heated by steam; I have made preparation for heating one of them by hot air, which I believe will be an improvement.

5512. Are any females employed in them?—No; I do not know that a female ever goes into them; the heat seldom exceeds 80 degrees; we do not like to parch the cloth in drying.

5513. Have the boys any necessity of going amongst your stoves when the steam is on?—No; we hang the cloth from a stave higher than this room; when the cloth comes down, it will get all of a heap at the bottom, and a lad just comes, and with his finger, as it is falling down, keeps it out, that is all he does. We do not hang the cloth whilst the stove is hot; if the stove were hot, a partial state of dryness would take place before the cloth got to the bottom, and there would be ugly creases made.

5514. Have you any females employed in your beetling rooms?—Not any.

5515. Have you any children as young as 9 or 10, employed in the plating?—No, never; and upon that head, probably, this may be a proper time to make this explanation to the Committee. It will be observed that at Firwood, I have one female under 13; at Bradshaw, I have none. I did not know that I had a female under 13 at Firwood, or at Bradshaw either. I wrote on Saturday to know the reason of that girl being employed at Firwood, and this is the answer which I received: "Firwood Works, Bolton, Lancashire, July 5th, 1857. Sir,—The girl at Firwood, whose age is from 11 to 13 years, is employed in the making-up set as a hooker. She is the daughter of Reuben Laithwaite, who is a maker-up in the same set. She was taken in by Mr. Wood, through the importunate entreaties of her parents, her father having been from work some time through sickness, in consequence of which, his wife and family became very much reduced; consequently, she was taken in, in hope of her being some little assistance to them." I asked about a boy there who is between 10 and 11, and as to him, the letter says, "The boy whose age is from 10 to 11 years, is employed to stand behind the white mangles to look for wires." Some of the manufacturers are very careless, and send wires from the shuttle ends; and we are obliged to have a lad standing by to see that they do not damage the cloth.

5516. That is his occupation?—Yes. "He is the son of the late John Rostron, waggoner, who got killed a few years ago." We have only, I think, six or eight waggoners, and we have killed more waggoners than we have all the rest of our people put together. "He also was taken in by Mr. Wood, in consequence of his mother being a widow, and having a large family to bring up. The above is a correct account of the girl and boy alluded to." Then you will find that there is a boy between 10 and 11 at Bradshaw, but no girl under 13. This is the answer as to that case: "Bradshaw Cottage, near Bolton, 5th July 1857. Sir,—In reply to your inquiry of yesterday, the boy from 10 to 11 years old works in the white patent stove; his work is pelting or straightening the corners of the cloth when hanging

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hanging in the stove; his name is James Collier, son of John Collier, millwright, who works here; the boy has only worked about three weeks. I was not aware till Wednesday last that we had one on the works so young; he was engaged and brought on the works by Mr. Greenhalgh, I believe; the counting-house or myself were never apprised of the matter." So that we have only one female under 13, and only two boys between 10 and 11, and they are accounted for.

5517. I think you stated, in answer to a question which I put to you, relating to the stoves, that no boys remained in those drying-stoves?—No; the only evil is, that they have little to do; that is the worst thing for them.

5518. What is your opinion as to the practicability of restricting the employment in your works to 10 hours, as in the case of the Factory Act?—I say that it is utterly impracticable; it is utterly impossible, and I may perhaps give one or two reasons. Without giving any opinion as to the propriety of legislating with a view to regulate factory labour, I would wish the Committee to consider that factory labour, that is to say, the spinning and weaving, is purely mechanical; they must recollect that the spinner and manufacturer can have his cotton if he likes, by paying for it (they sometimes get it without paying), and he can go on spinning; he can horde up stock if he has capital, and if he has not capital he can horde up stock, he can put it in the hands of a commissioner, and draw upon it. He has the means, in one way or another, of continuous labour, both by reason of the occupation being mechanical, and by reason of his being the master of the whole affair. Now, as a bleacher, dyer and finisher, I am just in the opposite position: I am not the servant of those who employ me; my case is that of the employer and employed. I like to draw the distinction, because I speak of myself and those who work for me as master and servant. My employers send me cloth to deal with, just at their own convenience; they never study mine, they never did, and never will; they sometimes send me cloth without any orders whatever, and I cannot touch it till I get the orders; it lies there grey. They sometimes send me cloth with very pushing orders; I must start there and then; these orders will some of them require every imaginable shade of colour to be dyed, some very heavy, requiring days to get through the dyeing, and others very light, requiring minutes almost, or very short periods. In the white cloth they require different modes of stiffening; they require different modes of finishing; they require different modes of folding, and ornamenting, and papering; they require different modes of stamping, and any mistake in any one piece throws back the whole lot, or holds it fast rather; for every piece is examined before it goes into the press. If there is any piece found that is unmerchantable, or not strictly according to order, it has to go back and to be made so, and to come again; the rest of the goods are there waiting. We must have people to do those things; that is to say, to re-bleach and re-finish anything that is unmerchantable when it gets to the press, or we must send unmerchantable goods abroad, which is a thing that I hope never to be engaged in doing.

5519. Then you find, practically, that the merchant always gives you the least possible time for the completion of the order?—No, I do not say that; what I say to my customers is this, "Give us the longest day that you can, and we will not disappoint you." I could mention houses in Manchester for whom I have done work for 30 years, who have never been disappointed of a day or an hour, acting upon that understanding; but it sometimes happens that it is a very short day, and with some houses it is because they cannot help it; large orders come from abroad, and they say, We must have so-and-so by such a ship, and the goods must go, or the order is lost.

5520. And you have not disappointed them, because you have arranged to do the work?—Because I have made my arrangements accordingly; I have good hearty honest workpeople about me, and they thrive under the thing, and I get the work done.

Martis, 7° die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cheetham.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Clark.	Mr. Massey.
Mr. Cobbett.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dalglish.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

James Hardcastle, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

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5521. Mr. *Cheetham.*] IT has been mentioned to the Committee that the increased facilities afforded by steam has rendered the pressure upon the bleacher to have his goods completed within the given time less necessary than formerly was the case, because if they were not ready for one vessel, they would be dispatched by another immediately going after. Do you think that that state of things has practically lessened the pressure upon you by limiting their orders?—I could scarcely answer that question in a direct manner. Formerly, many of our pushes were occasioned by this, that we bleached for the manufacturers; the market day was on the Tuesday at Manchester, and they must have their goods in on the Tuesday, or they lost their market. Then at that time the orders for shipping were not so extensive as now, but still they were as pushing as now, and I do not see that they are less imperative at this moment than ever they were. There is one gentleman who has given evidence in favour of legislation, for whom I have bleached 30 years, a shipper in Manchester, whose orders have always been the same for the goods to be delivered in six days or eight days, or ten days, whatever it might be, with an understanding that he would give us the longest day he could, and we have never disappointed him for 30 years, until the agitation on short time commenced, when our workpeople got a little unhinged and discipline was relaxed, and we did disappoint him, and being disappointed, he sent his goods elsewhere.

5522. Do you, notwithstanding the argument adduced of the increased facilities for shipping, find that the pressure upon you for completing within a certain time is as great as it was formerly?—It is just the same.

5523. Do not you think that would arise from the fact that it is of equal importance, notwithstanding these increased facilities of shipment, that the merchant should be able to get the goods furnished in by a particular time, and he is necessarily anxious to be first in the market, if possible?—If the Bombay season was on, we will suppose for a particular class of goods dyed three colours, green, orange and purple, if they miss a ship, they miss a season; and every man is anxious to get the goods into his ship; and probably he sends patterns overland of the goods before the goods are shipped, and they are probably sold to arrive, and if we do not push and complete the order, according to the order, there would be confusion all the way from Bombay to Manchester, including bills perhaps drawn upon London, purchase of produce, and I know not what.

5524. And the result is, that they push your work so as to get them in time?—You find that nothing can provide for occasional hard-working, this impossibility of mere mechanical action.

5525. It has been stated, I think by one of the factory inspectors, that where a factory and bleach-works have been contiguous, the boys have been employed jointly in the two; have you known any instances of that kind?—I never heard of it till Mr. Tremenheere mentioned it the other day.

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5526. Do you think it necessary, then, that in bleach-works they should have more robust persons for making up and finishing than in the calender-houses, warehouses, and packing-houses at Manchester, where there are similar kinds of employment?—Not at all, but I think the reverse; for the air is so much purer with us, and the water is so much better, and I think the sewage is altogether so much better, the rooms they work in are so much more spacious and airy, and the whole thing is so much better, that a weakly person might stand the work with us who would sink under it at Manchester in their calender-houses and packing-up rooms.

5527. The same class of employment existing in both cases?—Yes; precisely the same class, calendering, finishing, and packing-up.

5528. Does Mr. Tremenheere in his report allude to some six or eight girls, whom he observed in your works when he was passing through with you, as looking rather poorly?—He does; it was thus: I first saw Mr. Tremenheere there, I think, on the 9th of January, it was either the 9th or the 10th, and he walked through my works. Christmas begins with us on New Year's-day, as you are aware; New Year's-day was on a Sunday that year, so that it only began on Monday, and there were of course two or three or four days of festivity and idleness; then there would necessarily be some getting ready to work, and fetching up the lost work; it was on the Wednesday, I think, he was at my works, the next Wednesday but one after New Year's-day, and in passing through I observed, as I thought, six girls that looked rather seedy, and Mr. Tremenheere observed them; he counted them as eight, which I could not do; two of them were girls of about 13, the other two were girls of from 13 to 24; there were four girls working together, two of whom were those that looked a little poorly, and the other two were as robust looking as any two girls I ever saw. Mr. Tremenheere immediately pounced upon the two that looked poorly; he took no notice of those that looked well; but I said, "These two are hearty, why do not you question them"? he did not say a word to them. All those were in one room, in the making-up room at Firwood. I do not know that he alluded to any other person that was anything but well-looking in my works, except those six or eight.

5529. Can you refer to Mr. Tremenheere's allusion to those girls?—It is in his print of my evidence, page 20: "I cannot say that I like to see such young girls at work as the four we saw to-day in the finishing department, about and under 13 years of age. I have no personal interest in employing them, neither do I wish any girl under 13 to be in my works. This is in reference solely to my own works as at present carried on." "The number of females throughout the works is 36, and, with the exception of the six or eight before mentioned, they are in robust health." Allow me to say, that when I stated this to Mr. Tremenheere I had not had an opportunity of inquiring how it was that those six girls were looking poorly. In those six or eight are included the four at the age of 13. I said to the foreman a few days afterwards, "What is to do with these lasses, they looked so poorly the other day;" he asked, "Was it when that great mon fro' Lon'on was going through th' works? Why," he says, "they had not got o'er their Christmas." That was the answer I got, and the explanation.

5530. I think you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that your own wishes were that none under 13 should be employed in your works; do you still retain that opinion?—I do still, as you will have observed from the list of those at present employed; I have only one girl under 13 in both of my works. I explained to him that I did not like seeing girls under 13 years of age in my works, as I did not like it. There was a time when I gave some orders in reference to that, which I will explain hereafter.

5531. In Mr. Tremenheere's report he has stated that all the masters, as well as the workpeople, were in favour of some amount of legislative interference; have you stated that to him as being your opinion?—Never.

5532. Have you ever at any time wavered in your views as to the propriety or impropriety of legislation?—Never for a moment.

5533. When he came to your works did he examine several of the workpeople?—Yes, he questioned them.

5534. Did he appear to conduct the examination in what you considered a fair mode, or were his questions what are generally styled leading questions?—At the time I did not think much of it; but after he was gone, putting things together, I came

came to this conclusion, from observing his manner, and from hearing his questions, and from perceiving that if there was anything which militated against his desire for legislation he left it alone, and that if there was anything that appeared at all calculated to serve his purpose for legislation he pounced upon it; I remember one thing that occurred; some of them had on old boots that buttoned up at the side.

5535. Were those boys?—No, girls. The buttons were broken. One girl had tied like a sandal to the boot a piece of rag, and he pounced upon it; he thought it was a rag for a sore foot, and the girl laughed at him. And another thing I mentioned yesterday; he would not go near those young lads from 18 to 21, who were going from their work at one o'clock, having come to the works at six, and earned a day and a half's wages. Another thing, it was close to the dinner-hour; there was a boy at the works, and I said, "That boy does not work here; do not take him as a sample; he is from a family of hand-loom weavers, and he has brought some of them their dinner." I said, "You will find that his brother is at my works, and earns his bread here." Mr. Tremenheere took no notice, and I came to this conclusion, that his conduct was that of a man in search of a case, and determined to make a case if he could not find one.

5536. That is, he led you to suppose his mind was made up upon the case that he was sent to investigate?—Clearly. When I came to reason with myself, and inquire and examine by myself into his various words and acts, I came to the conclusion, as I tell you, it was even worse than that. (He was determined to make a case if he could not find one).

5537. How do you engage these young people in your works?—The females mostly come with their relatives—with parents or brothers, as it may be, and we have no engagement whatever with them. They are paid by the list, as in that book which I have handed in to the Committee.

5538. That book shows the nature of the dealings that you have with them?—Yes, and the mode of payment. Everything is done by the piece, and every person is rated at so much per day, rated wages; everything in degree. I think for a full-grown woman, at 7 *s.*; for one in authority, at 8 *s.*; and the boys and the men vary all the way up. And then their money is divided *pro ratâ*, that is, according to their rated day's wages; the entire earnings of the set are divided among them, according to the rate at which they stand in the book.

5539. That is to say, the week's wages of a woman will be 7 *s.* or 8 *s.*, and if she is worked overtime, she is paid *pro ratâ*?—Yes; this is the list which they have had ever since 1830. The young boys at 13 have 4 *s.* a week, and it goes on from 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, 5 *s.*, 7 *s.*, 8 *s.*, 9 *s.*, 11 *s.*; then we have another list, inferior, beginning at 3 *s.*, 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, 5 *s.* 6 *d.*, 6 *s.* 6 *d.*, 7 *s.*, 8 *s.*, 8 *s.* 6 *d.*, 10 *s.* We have had very few boys on the lower list. I put that on for this reason: I said, "If there is any lad who cannot read and write, let him have less, and then he will try to do better." That is the origin of this low list. I do not think I have had half-a-dozen on it.

5540. Will you explain to the Committee what hours, according to that list, you consider to be a day's employment?—That list I made in 1830; it was after a grand turn out, and I was determined that I would never have another as long as I lived, if I could help it. I made out that list with very great care; I had nothing else to do during the turn out, and I took for my basis that each individual should be able to earn full wages in eight hours steady labour, comfortably, where both the head and hands were required, where anything like skill was required; but where it was mere common labour, nine hours was the basis of my calculation. Since then, improvements have been made, and facilities for getting through work have been created; machinery has been improved, processes have been improved; and I should think now that the one would be done in seven hours, and the other perhaps in eight hours and a half; but I have given that advantage to the workpeople.

5541. Have you ever considered the effect of foreign competition upon your business in connexion with legislation?—As to foreign competition, as regards myself, I have felt its effects. I may mention one case among many: formerly I had a very large trade with Flanders, before the disruption, when Holland and Flanders were one. I was then bleaching 200,000 pieces a month for the market, to be sold in a white state to the consumers. I could scarcely go in Belgium past any shop but there was more or less of my bleach in it. Now, I could not find a

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piece of it in Belgium or Holland. A great many other markets went the same way, and they are getting it done amongst themselves.

5542. What has superseded your bleach there?—Their own.

5543. Is there any competition by the bleachers in Ireland or Scotland?—I never call it competition if it is with any person of my own country; but I had a very good trade in beetling at one time, and my friend Mr. Kirk and others seem to have taken it from me. A great many goods go from Manchester to Ireland in a rough state, and they are dyed and beetled, and they come back to Manchester to be sold; they formerly came to me in the rough state; they have beaten me in this; and in Scotland there is a considerable friendly competition, especially in dyeing, and in dyeing for India more than for other places. I formerly had goods from Glasgow to dye and to bleach that went back to Glasgow to be shipped, or went to the merchants in Liverpool; now goods go from Manchester to those places to be dyed and bleached, and come back to Liverpool to be shipped.

5544. I think you employ several agricultural labourers; what opinion do you entertain as to their position and condition in comparison with those who are engaged in bleach-works?—I bought an estate near Wynnstay four years ago; I have 600 or 700 acres upon my hands now; I found that they were an impoverished set of people, and I thought that if Ireland were worse than what I found there I should run away; but they have been trained, and set to work since then. When I talked to a neighbouring squire, he said that he had only three women that would grow turnips, and he never had been able to get more to do it. I have 12 good workwomen; I have them got into the way of it now; they are well fed, well clad, and well housed; they have their children's school wages in their pockets, and they pay the schoolmistress, and pay their own way, because I introduced among them the same system of discipline as at present existing among the workpeople in Lancashire.

5545. Do you consider that the position of the workpeople in Lancashire is a preferable one as regards the agricultural labourers?—They would be very sorry indeed to change. At harvest time I have had eight or ten out of Lancashire for shearing and harvest time down, but none of them would like to stop. As to the employment of women in the open air at turnip hoeing, and that kind of work, when the weeds arrive at a certain state, it must be done; there must be a push there as well as in the bleaching; the weeds must be cleared away, or the turnips are gone.

5546. Are long hours in existence there also?—Yes, and pushes and hard work occasionally; it must be done whether it is raining or not, unless the ground has got so moist that it would puddle. And there is no shelter from the rain with them as there is in our bleach-works; and there is as fresh air in the bleach-works as there is in the fields.

5547. With regard to Mr. Tremenheere's visit to your district; did he upon coming put himself in communication with you, or how did you ascertain his arrival there?—I heard in the first week of 1855 that there was a Commissioner from London, and I inquired if anybody could tell me what was his name; I could not get to know his name; but some one said that Mr. Ainsworth knew him, or knew something of him or of his family. And I said, "Is he a gentleman," and he said, "Yes, Mr. Ainsworth believes he is a gentleman;" and I said, "That is right; then we will treat him as such." And on Tuesday evening, which would be the second Tuesday, the 8th of January, on the railway platform at Manchester, I was told there was Mr. Tremenheere, going with Mr. Bridson to stay all night, and to commence work in the morning, and that he was this new Commissioner. Mr. Bridson asked me if I would go and take supper with him, to which I consented. After supper, in consequence of what had passed between me and the Home Office previously, having been referred by the Home Office to the Commissioner for a view of his commission, I intimated to Mr. Tremenheere that I should like to see his commission; I did it as politely as I could, without absolutely asking him for it. I asked him if his inquiry embraced everything that was included in Lord Shaftesbury's Bill, that is the Bill which was withdrawn in 1854, when Lord Palmerston, who was then Home Secretary, stated to the House that it was impossible to legislate upon the subject at so late a period of the Session (the Bill had only been brought before the House on the 17th of July), but that there should be inquiry about it; he would not pledge himself as to what sort of inquiry, but that there should be inquiry. In consequence of that, I had communication

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munication with the Home Office, and I asked for the copy of Mr. Tremenheere's commission. Mr. Tremenheere went out of the room, as I thought, to bring his commission; but instead of that he brought a copy of the Bill, and led me to understand that his inquiry embraced everything included in the Bill (Lord Shaftesbury's Bill). He also told me that he was appointed by Lord Palmerston. Afterwards, on referring to his book, to my surprise I found that his commission authorised him to go no further than "to make due inquiry how far it may be advisable to extend the provisions of the Acts for the better regulation of mills and factories to bleaching-works established in certain parts of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." Now this Bill (Lord Shaftesbury's Bill) goes to the dyeing-works, and various things; it is very extensive in its operation; whereas the commission extended only to bleaching-works. I also found that his commission was signed by Sir George Grey, and not by Lord Palmerston.

5548. Did you afford Mr. Tremenheere every facility for visiting your works?—Every facility I possibly could; I showed him every attention which was due to any person holding her Majesty's commission.

5549. Had you any application for Mr. Cobbett to visit your works?—I had; I had a letter from some person calling himself the secretary to the Short-time Bleachers' Committee, asking permission for Mr. Cobbett and others to look through my works. I wrote to say that I should have great pleasure in seeing Mr. Cobbett or any other Member of Parliament, but that I could not give permission to unknown and unnamed individuals, and I have reason to know that the man got my reply.

5550. You did not object to Mr. Cobbett himself seeing your works?—Not at all; I said I should be glad to see Mr. Cobbett, or any other Member of Parliament.

5551. I think you have extended your invitation to all the Members of this Committee?—My son was celebrating his coming of age, and I thought it would be a nice opportunity for seeing the whole of the people together, and talking to them; and I thought that if the Members of the Committee could have come down and have mixed with the people, they would have got to know all about them, and with a great deal less trouble than sitting here. I gave this invitation: "Firwood and Bradshaw, near Bolton, 4th June 1857: Sir,—Being the person employing, I believe, a larger number of workpeople than any other individual in bleaching, dyeing and finishing, I do not apologise when asking that you and other Members of your honourable Committee will proceed to my works, and there judge for yourselves. An opportunity of seeing all my workfolks together will occur on Monday next, when my son (having attained his majority) will give a dinner to them at Bradshaw, at three o'clock, and he would feel much honoured by your company, and that of any others of the honourable Members of your Committee; and on the following days of the week you and the other honourable Members may have opportunities of seeing the people at work in my own and in others of the bleaching, dyeing and finishing works in the locality of Bolton and Manchester. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.—James Butt, Esq., Chairman of Committee on Bleaching and Dyeing Works." I ought to say Mr. Cobbett never came, nor did any Member of the Committee come, or any Member of Parliament.

5552. We have had evidence given before the Committee of young children having been compelled by influence used upon their parents to enter the bleaching-works; is that the case in your works?—On one occasion I did so, and I think I ought to tell the Committee why I did it. The Committee will observe, that I have decreased the number of young girls in my establishment, and that I have only one now even of that age, even in both my works. About seven years ago there was a case tried before me and Mr. Bowling, formerly member for Bolton, whom I think every man respected. It was the case of a man of about 60 years of age, who had debauched three young girls from 11 to 13 years old; it was clear that this man had debauched these girls in the presence of each other. The depositions were very carefully taken; the charge was rape, but we found that there was no case to go to a jury; there was a great desire, in my mind, to send the case to a jury for assault, but I found that Mr. Bowling thought that there was no case for a jury. We then consulted with another magistrate, and Mr. Hulton, of Hulton; we heard it in a private room while he was in the public room; but he had heard part of the case, and he was of Mr. Bowling's opinion, that, looking to the depositions, there was no case for a jury. I afterwards regretted that we did not deal

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deal with the case summarily for a common assault, and fine the man 5 *l.* for each case. There was no doubt whatever as to the offence having been fully perpetrated upon two of the girls, who were above 12; but there was doubt as to the complete perpetration upon the one who was between 11 and 12. We could have dealt with the case summarily, and fined him 5 *l.* for an assault in each case, but I did not think of it at the time; I was too much disgusted to think of anything of the sort. Talking about it afterwards, Mr. Bowling said, "I wish with all my heart that Lord Shaftesbury could see the copy of these depositions."

5553. Did this lead you to make any remark about young people working?—Yes; I inquired from a respectable person in the neighbourhood how this came to pass, as the man was a shopkeeper, and a man in a respectable station in life; and his answer was, "I think these girls had nothing to do; they will not have them in the factory, because they are under 13, and they were idling about; and this man had been giving them sweets, and so on; it came about in this way." "Well," I said, "if one of these girls had a brother or father or somebody working in the coal pits, they had better go down the pits and work there, than be idling about, and coming to this mischief." But the man said, "Well, but they will not let them come into the coal-works; they cannot do so." From this remark, and from reflecting upon this case when I was with my foreman, I said, "I was thinking that I had done wrong in saying that I will not have any young people under 13; if there are any children from 11 to 13 who are idling about and doing nothing, we must give them something to do," not telling him my reason. He mentioned one or two; and when I found that their parents would not send them, because they found it more convenient to keep them at home and send them about on errands, and what not, I said, "If you will not let them come to work, you shall go about your business; I will not have them idling about." That was the cause of my threatening to discharge the parents if they would not send their children to work between 11 and 13.

5554. I believe that the master bleachers of Lancashire and Cheshire are most of them against any legislative interference?—Yes.

5555. Petitions have been presented from nearly all engaged in the trade?—Yes. It was reported to us that the Honourable Member for Bolton, Mr. Crook, had said to Lord Palmerston that the masters were in favour of legislation; but I am not able to ascertain who they were, because this memorial was drawn up, and sent to a number of persons for signature, and I am not aware of any one to whom it was sent having refused to sign it. There are 33 firms there; it says, "That your memorialists, and the master bleachers generally," (that is, speaking not only for themselves, but for others) "are most decidedly opposed to such a measure, being satisfied that the immense property and capital necessarily employed in the trade would be seriously injured, and that injury and loss would also be sustained by the workpeople."

5556. *Chairman.*] What is the date of that memorial?—This was in July 1854.

5557. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Have you heard of any of the memorialists since that period having changed their opinion?—Not one, unless I have heard, but not from himself, that Mr. Eden, of the firm of Eden & Thwaites, having arranged his works, which are for mere bleaching for the market upon a system which originated in Belgium, and which I can explain by-and-by, thought that he could contrive to get through between six and seven, or something of that kind, and therefore he did not care much about it; with that exception, I have heard nothing but that they are all of the same mind.

5558. Will you hand that paper in?——

[*The same was handed in:*]

To the Right Honourable Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Memorial of the undersigned Master Bleachers and Finishers of Cotton Cloth,

Showeth,

That your memorialists, whose works are situate in the vicinity of Manchester and Bolton, the principal locality in England where the trade of bleaching and finishing is carried on, have heard that your Lordship lately had an interview with a deputation from the committee of the operative bleachers and finishers, who are desirous that a 10 hours' Bill applicable to bleach-works shall be passed. That your memorialists and the master bleachers generally are most decidedly opposed to such a measure, being satisfied that the immense property and capital necessarily employed in the trade would be seriously injured, and

and that injury and loss would also be sustained by the workpeople. That the application of a 10 hours' Bill to our works would increase the cost of bleaching and finishing; and as it is now only by the greatest care, industry and skill that we are enabled to compete with those countries (such as America, India, China, Holland and Germany) which are at present the great markets for our labour, your memorialists feel satisfied that the passing of this Bill would cause a great part of their business to be transferred to other countries, and that two millions of capital now employed would be injuriously affected. That the trade of bleaching and finishing is difficult to manage, and it differs from other branches of the cotton trade in this,—that the supply of goods to be bleached fluctuates, and during some portions of the year we are only partially employed, whilst at other times we have more work to do than could be accomplished if the hours of labour were restricted. That your memorialists are satisfied that the irregularity in the supply of cloth to be bleached and finished cannot be remedied in the way the promoters of this Bill seem to anticipate. That your memorialists deem it a matter of the greatest importance to remind your Lordship that the application of a 10 hours' Bill was considered by Government at the time the Printers' Bill was under consideration, in which Bill it was intended that bleach-works should be included, but when the case was fairly laid before Sir James Graham, the then Secretary for the Home Department, bleach-works were omitted. That your memorialists do not doubt that on inquiry your Lordship will find that the operative bleachers and finishers are amply remunerated for their labour, and are a healthy and hardy class of people. From the evidence of the most respectable medical practitioners, and the sick and burial societies, it is clear that the mortality in this branch of the cotton trade is lighter than in any other. That the forbidding by Act of Parliament the employment of children under 10 years of age in bleach-works is needless, as they are not required. That your memorialists humbly hope that your Lordship will not suffer this Bill to pass into a law.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Gentlemen who have signed the memorial up to the present time.

R. Ainsworth, Son & Co.	William Makant.
Thomas Hardcastle & Son.	William Longworth.
Eaden & Thwaites.	James Hardcastle.
Blair & Summer.	Ridgway, Bridson & Son, Lever Bank.
Richard Bealey.	Richard Sykes & Co.
Thomas Ridway & Co.	Thomas G. Horridge.
Mortimer Lavater Tait.	Edward Hollins.
Henry Marsland.	Samuel Knight.
Lewis Merton.	John Whitehead.
Ridgway, Bridson, Son & Co.	The Trustees of J. Heyes, J. Marsden.
A. and H. Bleackley.	Thomas Holmes & Co.
Roger Taylor.	William Bleackley.
Thomas Appleton.	Rule & Davies.
Charles Whowell.	Barlow, Warburton & Hocker.
Hugh Roberts.	Chambers & Livsey.
Thomas Cross & Co.	Jon^{n} Pendlebury, Son & Co.
G. and J. Slater.	

53 Firms.

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
9	8	4,052

5559. Did you ever leave Mr. Tremenheere in doubt as to your being opposed to legislation upon this subject?—No, I never did; if he had a doubt it was of his own imagining.

5560. Did you give Mr. Tremenheere any right to suppose that you thought the labour of bleaching and finishing required greater strength of constitution than the other kinds of occupation for the working classes in your district?—No, unless it arose from this, that in going through the works, and looking at the girls, we saw a young girl who was there for trial, more than for anything else; she was one of those six or eight whom I mentioned; and Mr. Tremenheere made some remark, and I said, "That girl ought not to be put to this kind of labour; her constitution is not suited for it." In fact, the girl was unsound; she had an apparent tendency to scrofula.

5561. Your remarks simply applied to that particular case?—Yes; that was the only reason I ever gave him for supposing it.

5562. Did not you meet Mr. Tremenheere afterwards at a meeting of the bleachers, at Manchester, in 1855, after the publication of his report, and his evidence?—I did.

5563. Had you any discussion with him upon the evidence which he had reported you to have given?—He had sent me the print of what he called my evidence; and the first time I saw him after receiving this print was at the committee

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mittee of master bleachers, at the Albion Hotel, at Manchester. Having read this print over I felt a little indignant, and I said, " Mr. Tremenheere, I have received your print; you have put words into my mouth that I never used; and I will not allow you or any man to do that, and you completely ignore the existence of my Bradshaw works." Those were the expressions I made use of, and I think I said something else; I then heard Mr. Tremenheere deny it. Mr. Blair was present, with Mr. Howarth; they are both here; and other gentlemen were also present.

5564. Did Mr. Tremenheere charge you with having repudiated your previous statement?—When I said that he had put words into my mouth which I had never used, he said, " I have them in writing; fortunately I have them in writing." " Yes," I said, " and fortunately I have a witness."

5565. Were there any variations in your statement?—Not a syllable; I have endeavoured to find an excuse for Mr. Tremenheere; and I think he might be referring simply to one paragraph in his report, No. 177, which I think may be some little excuse for him. This is what he imputes to me as having said: " Although I object to legislation, I should be glad indeed to see that no children under 11 are employed at all in the trades of bleaching and dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely, half-past five in the morning and half-past eight at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week within those daily hours. The Legislature, in the Acts for regulating labour, has, I believe, established the hours from half-past five in the morning to half-past eight at night as constituting day-time." That remark applies to the factories, but in the print-works it is from 6 to 10; now whether Mr. Tremenheere imagined, from my having said this, that I was not averse to legislation, I do not know; but even this begins with saying: " Although I object to legislation, I should be glad indeed to see that no children under 11 are employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day." Now, I have accomplished that nearly, as will be seen from my lists, and if I can accomplish it, other people may accomplish it without legislation; in fact I deprecate legislation upon such a subject; I always did; and Mr. Tremenheere has nothing to justify his saying anything to the contrary.

5566. Do you wish to make any remarks upon the evidence given by one or two of the Manchester merchants to Mr. Tremenheere?—Since I came to London, and since I heard him the other day speak about the number of Manchester merchants who were in favour of legislation, having nothing else to do, I referred to the evidence given by Messrs. Schunk, Souchay & Co., whose firm I conclude was one of those he referred to. Now this firm is a most respectable firm; we sold goods to Mr. Schunk in the year of the battle of Leipsic, or the year after, and received money from them, and we have had an account with them from that day to this. They are very extensive merchants indeed, and very large shippers, most thorough men of business, and as systematic and regular as they can possibly be. They are of German origin. The report gives the answer of that firm to Mr. Tremenheere; and I had the curiosity to look to see what they had said, and here it is. I should like to read it, to show what he calls approving of legislation: " Messrs. Schunk & Souchay, Belfield Printing Company, Rochdale. We have bleach-works near Rochdale for bleaching fancy goods. As these depend upon fashion and season, the demand for them is irregular, and we are often consequently obliged to work overhours. Our goods go to all foreign markets, and are also for the home trade; they are fancy prints; we are liable to have sudden orders, which must be executed in a fixed time; our busiest time for the Australian trade is July, August and September; the busiest for the spring is November, December and January; we receive orders from the export merchants of Manchester, London, &c.; the busiest time is generally at the beginning of the season; all parties are generally anxious to get their orders executed by a certain day for certain steamers for all parts of the world. If an Act were passed limiting the hours for females and boys, and thus possibly for the whole, the delay caused by it would be the same for all; if the delay amounted to one-fourth of the present time, an order would take one-fourth more time to execute. There would be an inducement to the bleachers to extend their works, if they wished to keep up the present rate of production; they would have to enlarge their works. It might be very inconvenient to the smaller capitalists, who might not be able to do this, but in the end the same amount would be got through as at present, but at a greater

greater cost." Now that is their evidence, and he says it is in favour of legislation; but I cannot discover that it is in favour of legislation.

5567. Do you wish to make any remark upon some evidence given by Mr. Waring to Mr. Tremenheere, reported in page 16 of the report, respecting a suggestion of yours?—It is put in this way: "The witness, John Waring, made the following comment upon it,"—that is, upon what I said,—"If Mr. Hardcastle's plan, or anything like it, were to be adopted, of allowing work to be done by females and boys between half-past five and half-past eight, but only 60 hours a week, the females and boys might have done their 60 hours in less than five days; that would be no benefit to the masters, because their machinery would be standing, and the drugs losing their strength the rest of the time." Now, Mr. Tremenheere puts that flippant rubbish into that report in answer to my remark. Inconsequential as it is in every sentence, it merely shows how ready Mr. Tremenheere was to catch at any straw whatever in aid of his predetermination to legislation.

5568. Have you any other remark to make upon this subject?—I should be happy to answer any other questions that may be put to me.

5569. Mr. *Packe.*] Do you know whether a shorthand writer attended Mr. Tremenheere when he went to collect his evidence?—No, none; I saw nothing of the kind.

5570. With reference to the question which the honourable Member put to you as regards working in the fields, is it usual in Lancashire for women to be employed in hoeing turnips?—I stated that I had an estate near Wynnstay, which is in Wales, on the River Dee, and not in Lancashire; but in some parts of Lancashire we grow very fine turnips.

5571. Are women employed in hoeing them?—Yes.

5572. Is it the usual practice that turnips as well as all other agricultural produce should be hoed by the piece, and not by the day?—I should say it was far more easy to hoe turnips by the piece, or to weed them by the piece; but they would be sure to be worse done; it is better to have a man whom you can depend upon to lead the women; they would rather not do it by the piece.

5573. Would it not be more likely to be expeditiously done if you did it by men paid by the piece?—It would be more likely to be slurred over, as I think it is in some agricultural districts; it is nice women's work; I know that by hoeing they have been raised to comfort about the place, on my estate.

5574. Are women employed in that way in Lancashire?—I am not much acquainted with agriculture in Lancashire, but I am told by my steward that he has employed women in hoeing turnips, and that the women like it in the Fylde country.

5575. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Is it not the fact that it is limited to the agricultural district between Preston and Lancashire?—It is not quite limited to that; it prevails there very much; there are more turnips growing up in the country than there are near the town.

5576. *Chairman.*] I suppose, from the gratifying account of the relations which subsist between yourself and your workpeople, that the Committee may assume that you are on the most friendly terms with them?—As a whole, I am; I have had one little instance of a quarrel, which has occurred in May, in the pulling-up room. The boys had 7 *s.* per keerful for pulling-up goods from the grey to the white; we had been accustomed to do this work with boys of younger age than at present, and then some among them, of the age now employed, could earn more money, and get a larger share; we have made no alteration whatever for more than two years in the price or way they were doing their work; but about six weeks ago the lads employed at this work took it into their heads to go off to the ale-house; the whole, amounting to six or seven in number, went off, and we supplied their places, and have not taken them all back to the works.

5577. With that slight exception, if it may be called an exception, are we to understand that you are on good terms with your workpeople?—I do not know a single exception.

5578. Did you not say that, since the agitation about this subject has commenced, your discipline has become rather relaxed?—I meant to say that it was more difficult to be maintained, for a time, after the agitation commenced; not that there was any relaxation on my part, but that there was a greater difficulty in maintaining it; some of the workpeople got a little unhinged.

5579. Do you mean to say that you have seen an anxiety among them to have some legislation applied to their trade?—There was one of them who turned

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agitator, I believe, and some few others were influenced by his arguments; and if a very few in my works get out of joint, as it were, it causes things to be irregular.

5580. Was there any anxiety among your workpeople that there should be a legislative enactment upon this subject?—I never heard them say so to me.

5581. What form or shape did this agitation or disturbance take?—I was told by the foreman that, since this agitation began, there was more trouble in getting the people to execute the orders so punctually as they had previously done.

5582. Have they ever mentioned to you any desire for legislation?—I have no recollection of its ever having been mentioned by any one.

5583. Are you aware whether any of them have petitioned Parliament upon the subject?—I am not aware of it; it was a year ago or more that the irregularities took place; I have heard nothing of them latterly: all is right now, and has been for 12 months past. I heard one girl, whom Mr. Tremenheere asked if she would not like to get to her work, and get her wages in less time, and then get away earlier, say that she would; and I asked a girl, in the Tea-room in the House of Commons, last night, the same question, and she gave me the same answer.

5584. You have told the Committee that those girls whose appearance was not quite satisfactory to Mr. Tremenheere were those who had not got over their Christmas; will you explain that expression?—If they had been engaged in festivities for three or four days after New Year's-day, it would be some time before they got round again; I am sure I should find it so.

5585. Do you mean that they were suffering from over-abundance of good cheer?—I dare say they were; and from dances and frolics.

5586. And not from the over-pressure of work, which, as I understand you to say, sometimes occurs about that period?—The two would about that moment be combined. There would be a reaction after the glorifications which they had had; and they would find, when they came back to their labour, that it had been accumulating upon their hands, and they had it staring them in the face in a large quantity. Goods come in, whether we are working or not; and I dare say that the two circumstances together operated to make them appear a little seedy. I saw them just now, and every one of them were looking very well.

5587. Mr. *Davison.*] Is it not in the case of any one, after two or three days' jollification, as it is termed, apparent to any ordinary observer that such a thing has taken place; does not it alter the appearance of the person?—Yes. There is a lassitude about them which you never observe at any other time.

5588. *Chairman.*] You have told the Committee that 33 firms signed the memorial for the masters to prevent any legislative interference?—Yes.

5589. Are you aware whether there was a demonstration of the same kind against the interference with the factories, or were the masters generally favourable to factory legislation?—I am not a spinner or manufacturer, and therefore perhaps it would be desirable that I should not go into that; I would rather speak to what I know of my own knowledge.

5590. Can you tell the Committee how many firms there are in Lancashire and Cheshire which are engaged in the bleaching business?—No, I cannot.

5591. Could you say that the 33 firms who signed this memorial represented the great majority of the firms in Lancashire?—They represented the great weight of the trade; whether in number or not I am not sure; but the great weight as to the quantity of business done; they represent a very great majority of the quantity of business done.

5592. Are you a printer?—I am.

5593. Are you under inspection in those works?—In my Bradshaw works I both print, bleach and dye, and print in unison in my bleach-works, and I am at present under the Print Works Act there; the Print Works Act allows me to take children into my works at eight years of age, and it allows me to work till 10 o'clock at night; so that if the Bill of last Session, No. 2, were to pass into a law, I should be in this position: my works are not two separate works, like Westminster Abbey on one side of the street, and Westminster Hall on the other; but they are like these Houses of Parliament, all mixed together, and I should have my people in them working under two separate Acts of Parliament.

5594. Did you oppose the passing of the Print Act?—No; I took no notice of it; I thought it was perfect nonsense.

5595. But you did not oppose it?—I did not think it worth while.

5596. Do you complain of Mr. Tremenheere for saying that Messrs. Schunk & Souchay expressed themselves as favourable to legislation?—I do not complain of it; but I say that I do not see how they are in favour of legislation; I understand, from what I have heard in this room, that theirs was one of the firms put forward as being in favour of legislation.

5597. Can you point to any sentence in which Mr. Tremenheere states these gentlemen to be favourable to legislation?—I must say that, after having received the print of my evidence from Mr. Tremenheere, I never looked at the report (I had had quite enough of it) until I came up here, and then, having nothing better to do, I referred to it to see what this firm had said, and the Committee have heard it; I do not complain, I merely state the fact.

5598. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Will you turn to page 10 of Mr. Tremenheere's report, and see what he states there?—"But on going carefully and minutely into the question with those merchants, I found that four only supported the views of the masters; the remaining 10, as will be seen by reference to the evidence (pp. 33 to 39), acknowledging that in certain cases the arguments for the masters held good, were nevertheless of opinion that, upon the whole, the restriction of the labour of females and boys in the bleaching and finishing works would make very little difference to any one; that it would be attended with no danger to the great mercantile interests of the country engaged in the cotton trade; that the difficulty of adopting the restriction was more in apprehension than in reality, and that it would soon be got over; that all parties would soon learn to accommodate themselves to it; and that in the end it would be better for all parties, bleaching masters and workpeople, and even the merchants themselves." I should think that is rather strong language.

5599. *Chairman.*] Do you think that it is stronger than is warranted by the evidence that is ascribed to Messrs. Schunk & Souchay?—I think so.

5600. Mr. *Turner.*] Do you object to legislative restrictions in respect of labour upon a principle which admits of few exceptions?—Yes; upon a principle which admits of few exceptions.

5601. Do you also object to legislative restrictions with respect to food upon a principle which admits of few exceptions?—Most certainly I do.

5602. Would you, then, object to restricting free labour upon the same principle as you would object to restricting free trade?—Decidedly.

5603. What do you mean by the term "class legislation"?—I do not know what meaning the inventor of the phrase intended to give it, but I should suppose that it meant to refer to legislating for any one particular class or section of the people as distinct from legislation for the general good.

5604. Do you approve of class legislation as a principle?—No, I do not.

5605. What has been the effect of the Print Works Act; is it obsolete?—When the Print Works Act was passed there was a great number, I think the majority of those employed in printing were block printers; each block printer employed what was called a tail boy or a tail girl; and the operation consisted in putting colour upon what is called the printing-table, and brushing it with a brush before the printer abstracts it with his block; and I believe that the idea of legislation arose more from the employment of these children in that way than from any other thing. I do not know that there is anything else connected with machinery, or with working in opposition to steam, a principle that Mr. Tremenheere seemed inclined to originate with some work, but which I do not quite understand; nearly the whole of these block tables have ceased to be, and I should think there is not one now where there were 100; whether the Act has had anything to do with it or not is more than I can say; but the main reason assigned for legislating upon the subject has ceased to be, and, so far as that part is concerned, it has become almost obsolete, and in a little time it will become altogether so.

5606. However, from some cause or other, young people have gone out of employment since the Act passed?—They have gone out of employment in my own works; I find nothing objectionable, in fact, with reference to it, except that part of the Print Works Act regarding inspectors; I found one day that the inspector had been in my white packing-rooms where my different finishes and white goods are kept white for market, and had been making himself a great man there. I thought he had no business there, and therefore sent him a message giving him my compliments, and saying, that if I caught him there I would put him into the reservoir. He said he would bring Mr. Horner, and I said, "Very well, let him; Mr. Horner may go through my works if he will ask leave, but not otherwise."

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wise." Mr. Horner, I believe, came, and he went away, leaving his compliments, and saying that he was so pleased and satisfied with everything that he had observed upon the works, that the people looked so well, and that the works were so excellent, and everything was so systematic and regular, that he should be very sorry indeed to interfere with me at all, and I have never heard a word in any way about these inspectors or sub-inspectors since. That was about five or six years ago. I was speaking with a large calico-printer, Mr. Edward Marston, lately, and he said, "It is an old almanac with us;" I do not know any good that the Print Act is doing, except to those who are receiving salaries under it.

5607. I think you told us that you are a coalmaster?—Yes.

5608. What has been the effect of the Act respecting collieries?—The effect has been what I said it would be; there have been more accidents since they have appointed inspectors than there were before.

5609. How do you account for that?—I account for it because the masters seem to think that there was a certain responsibility taken off them when the Government have put somebody over them.

5610. Is that Act almost obsolete?—I think that the inspectors are sadly at a loss for something to do, for one of them has been giving me notice that I have not what he calls a proper steam-gauge to one of my boilers at my colliery. Now, I have 40 steam-boilers, or thereabouts, and I have been 40 years engaged about steam-boilers, and I thought I knew what a proper steam-gauge was. I have "Salter's improved spring balance," but whether these inspectors have some pet thing, or some pet person who has patented a pet thing, which they want to patronize, I do not know. This Salter's spring balance has been deemed by competent people a proper steam-gauge; I have just been putting up a new boiler (after I had received this communication from the inspector) at one of my bleach-works; it had been put up by my brother-in-law; but I kept off the fittings, and I wrote to Mr. Fairbairn, of Manchester, to affix the fittings in such a manner as he thought best for safety, without regard to expense; and the steam-gauge which he put upon this boiler was a description of this Salter's spring balance; the very thing that in my colliery this gentleman says is not a proper steam-gauge.

5611. Was it what Mr. Fairbairn considered the best possible thing he could put up?—My orders were to put the fittings that were best calculated for safety, without regard to expense.

5612. Did Mr. Fairbairn and the colliery inspector differ in opinion as to that?—Mr. Fairbairn who fitted up this boiler, is Mr. Thomas Fairbairn; Mr. Fairbairn the father is out of the business, and what may be his opinion upon that subject I do not know; but I believe that Mr. Fairbairn has said to me that it was the best valve that was made, that it was the best valve with a view to safety that had ever been discovered; it was an improvement by Mr. Salter, of the Union Foundry, Bolton, upon the old tube steam-gauge, with mercury. I merely mention this to show that the inspectors are short of work, or they would not be troubling me about a thing like this.

5613. What is your opinion as to the present state of the law upon the subject of factories?—I was sent as one of a deputation from Bolton to London upon the subject in the place of my father, when Sir John Hobhouse had the question in hand, and I argued the case with him at the time; I argued it also with Lord Melbourne, who was at the Home Office I believe at that particular time, and with the late Lord Auckland, who was at the Board of Trade; Mr. Hobhouse was in favour of legislation, and Lord Melbourne was opposed to it altogether, and so was Lord Auckland. I suggested, I think, the same thing precisely that I said to Mr. Tremenheere, and I believe that I was the author of that definition of a day, which is from half-past five in the morning to half-past eight at night, and which was put into the Bill at my suggestion; but my impression, under the circumstances, was, that you should not interfere with the work of girls under 18, except between those hours; I thought that was the farthest extent to which legislation could go without doing mischief; I have not since then observed the effects of the Factory Act. It is 1839 since my father died, and I have had no interest either present or prospective in it, and therefore I have not seen its operation, though at the time my impression was that that was the extent of legislation, and that it should go no further; and I am quite clear that we should do away with all these inspectors now.

5614. Can you speak of the present operation of the Factory Act?—At present I am

I am out of it; but I have seen enough of the present inspectors to enable me to say that I would do away with the inspectors; I do not mean to say that I would make away with them.

5615. Did not the hand-loom weavers at one time seek for legislative protection?—They did.

5616. Did they succeed?—They got a commission, rather a different one to that which we had in Mr. Tremenheere. The present Lord Overstone, then Mr. Samuel Jones Loyd, was chairman of the commission, and very complete inquiries were made all over the kingdom about the propriety of legislating to regulate the labour of hand-loom weavers; and I remember being asked to read a memorial; it is 20 years ago. But there was an expression in the hand-loom weavers' petition which I remember; it was something like this: "Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to the regulation of labour, yet you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food." I was struck by the expression at the time, and I never forgot it, though it is 20 years ago; it was when the Corn Law existed. This commission was appointed after that memorial or petition to the House of Commons was sent up; but it resulted in discovering that they could do nothing for the hand-loom weavers, and that they had better do what they could for themselves. I remember that. I quoted to one of them, who was a well-educated man, as some of them were, a passage from Sir Walter Raleigh, which I found by accident, and I think it is worth reading, as appropriate to the subject. Now, Sir Walter Raleigh says, and he was rather a luminous person, "A statesman may do much for commerce, most by leaving it alone. A river never flows so smoothly as when it flows in its own course, without either aid or check; let it make its own bed, and it will do it better than you can." But if that remark of Sir Walter Raleigh's was appropriate to commerce, it was appropriate to productive industry; and if it was appropriate for me to say it to the weavers, it is appropriate for me to say it from the bleach trade to this Committee now. I believe that Sir Walter Raleigh was right.

5617. *Chairman.*] Would not the same remark equally apply to all cotton factories?—Yes, as a principle; but there is no rule without an exception.

5618. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You were asked whether an attempt had not been made to regulate the labour of hand-loom weavers?—To legislate with a view to the regulation of the labour of hand-loom weavers.

5619. Was it not with a view to regulate the wages, and not the hours of labour at all?—It might be to regulate the amount of wages as much as the labour itself; I am not quite sure of that.

5620. Was not the hand-loom weaver a person who worked in his own cottage?—Certainly; I am speaking from memory about what occurred a quarter of a century ago; and therefore I am not quite certain whether the object of the hand-loom weavers was to get a fixed price for their work or fixed hours for their work, or whether it was not both.

5621. You repeated to the Committee just now the substance of the prayer of their petition to Parliament; will you repeat those words?—"Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to regulate labour; but you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food."

5622. Were not the words these, "Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to regulate the price of labour; but you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food"?—Exactly; it may be so.

5623. After that time, was not there a Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to examine into what was called "The Hand-loom Weavers' Petition"?—I do not remember that; I remember the commission of Lord Overstone.

5624. Do not you remember the Report of the Committee?—No; the weavers' plan was such perfect nonsense, that though I was very sorry for them, I could not agree with them.

5625. Can you undertake to say that either the applications or the petitions of the hand-loom weavers or the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons went to advise the regulation of the hours of work of the hand-loom weavers?—I think the Report, if I remember right, was that it was unadvisable to interfere at all; it was altogether against interference.

5626. Was that the Report of the Select Committee?—It was the Report of the commission; they were decidedly against interference; I am sure of that.

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5627. Is it not the fact, that to regulate the hours of the hand-loom weavers would not have been practicable, because he worked at his own cottage?—There were very many who worked in shops; there were plenty of shop-masters.

5628. Mr. *Turner*.] Have not you said that you think it is essential that goods should be delivered in lots, finished and assorted according to the orders of the merchant?—Decidedly; it must be done.

5629. Would it do to give a part without the rest?—We should get into chaos, as bad as Balaklava, if we did so.

5630. With regard to this subject, you said, that when they bring round a lot of your pieces, frequently they are dirtied, or miss receiving the particular shade of colour required; sometimes a few pieces may be taken by mistake from another lot; and in other respects accidents may arise in the progress of the goods through the various departments of the machinery, which may require the delay of a day to be finished anew. Is not that so?—Yes.

5631. Whether by night or by day, the lot may be delayed, and the shipment thereby may be detained, and the ship may sail without them, and great confusion might arise and much loss; is that a fair statement of your views upon the subject?—I think it is almost as fair as you could put, and it is what I have found in my experience.

5632. Can there be a healthy business medium, between confusion on the one hand and good order and good discipline on the other?—No, there cannot; it must either be order or chaos.

5633. Do you think that the intrusion of the inspectors would affect you in the matter of dicipline in your establishment?—It does not do for my lads to think that there is a greater man than I in the factory; we have more trouble in managing the lads from 18 to 24 than at any other time, and if these lads thought that there was a greater man than I, I do not know how we should get on, and they would begin to think that there was, if an inspector came to overhaul me.

5634. Would those young people be under the Act that you speak of?—No; but if the inspector is to come upon the property to look after me, then he is lowering me in the estimation of these workpeople, and especially of those lads who are so difficult to manage.

5635. Have you in the neighbourhood of your works churches and chapels, and other places of worship, and schools and Sunday-schools?—Yes, there are.

5636. Are there any other places of instruction for those who are more advanced in years?—Yes; we have lots of beer-shops, which are too much places of instruction, and there are too many of them.

5637. It was stated in evidence by some of the witnesses before this Committee, particularly by one, that the working bleachers as a class did not attend the mechanics' institutions and the public libraries in Bolton so much in proportion as other classes of workpeople in your locality; is that the fact?—I do not know that it is the fact, because I am not a member of the Mechanics' Institute, and therefore I have no reference to their books; but I should think it very likely to be so, for this reason, that the bleachers reside at a distance from the town, and are never in the habit of going to Bolton, except once a week, and now not so often as that; formerly they made a point of going on Saturday, but I believe they seldom go to Bolton for their marketing now; and with the exception of some very few works, the large works are a couple of miles from the town; Mr. Ainsworth's works are a couple of miles from the town, and mine are a couple of miles. These men have other means of instruction among themselves without going to the Mechanics' Institute or the Bolton Library.

5638. Can you state whether the master bleachers as a class have taken the same interest in those classes for instruction and improvement that the masters who employ labour of other classes have done; can you tell the Committee whether the bleach-masters have ever taken much interest in the Mechanics' Institution at Bolton, and whether they have been officers or presidents of it?—I believe the first president, and I may say the founder of it, was the late Mr. Richard Ainsworth, a master bleacher, and I think that during the period of the last 30 years master bleachers have been presidents of the Mechanics' Institute four-fifths of the time.

5639. It is well known that you have a large workman's library in Bolton, called the Exchange Library; who were instrumental in founding that library?—I was mainly instrumental myself, I believe, in founding the Exchange Library, in the first instance, in getting the Exchange built by private subscription; I believe I contributed more largely to it than any other individual; I think I may safely

safely say that I was mainly instrumental in the erection of that building, and in its being furnished with books; and the motto that guided me and others in the selection of the books for the public was, that we excluded nothing but that which was decidedly of an immoral tendency; there was nothing of a political tendency on any side of any question that we excluded on account of its politics; however opposed I might be to a republic in every other shape, I am an advocate for the republic of letters; we made things as open to the public as we could possibly make them.

5640. May the Committee infer from your answer that the master bleachers in your district have taken a fair amount of interest in these things?—They have; lately I have not. I have not meddled in the borough; I have had enough to do with four townships not in the borough. Since Bolton became corporate I have interfered scarcely at all in its politics, or in its acts and doings; my own proceedings have been outside the borough.

5641. I think you are not a member of the municipal corporation?—No.

5642. What is the kind of education which you think to be due from the richer portion of Christian men to and for their poorer brethren?—I consider it the bounden duty of every Christian man within the limit of his power to see and take care that every fellow creature within his influence be taught to read God's Holy Word; and I should think that it is the duty of the State to see that there are persons properly educated and appointed to explain His Word. Then I should think that secular education should be left to itself, to parents, without the dictation either of the master or of the State, leaving a field for the philanthopist. That is my deliberate opinion upon that subject; and I am, I fancy, supported in that opinion by the authority of a gentleman whom I very much admired at a time when people laughed at me for doing so, I mean the late Mr. Cobbett. Upon the subject of education, he said that "he liked to see people well fed, well clothed, well housed, and with the childrens' school wage in their parents' breeches pocket." Now, after the people were taught the Word of God, I quite agree with Mr. Cobbett that that is the mode which I would adopt with regard to secular education.

5643. Mr. *Davison*.] You have read over, I presume, the different Bills which have been introduced upon the subject which we are now investigating?—Yes, I have, beginning with the Print Act.

5644. Will you confine your attention to the four Bills that have been introduced, commencing in 1854; the first is Lord Shaftesbury's Bill in 1854?—I have read and considered that Bill.

5645. What is your opinion upon the subject of the legislation proposed in the Bill, as applicable to the trade of the bleachers, dyers and finishers; do you approve of it or disapprove of it, and why?—This Bill seems to say, that "no child under 10 years of age shall be employed within any building," &c. (it would take up time to read the whole list), for "bleaching, dyeing, finishing, calendering, dressing, embossing, or tambouring any woven fabric, or twist or yarn, or in packing, carrying or conveying, or in aiding or assisting in any other labour or process connected with bleaching, dyeing or finishing." Now, that includes every description of woven fabric, twist or yarn, both linen and woollen, worsted, hemp, silk, flax, and all their intermixtures; and it includes every description of work that is to be done about them all, both yarn and woven fabrics. Then it says, that "no male under the age of 18 years be employed in the premises before the hours of six of the clock in the morning, or after the hours of six of the clock in the evening of any day, except Saturday." And then it says, "this Act shall extend to Scotland." But in the margin, it says, "the Act to extend to Scotland and Ireland." It says, this Act shall extend to Scotland, but Ireland is exempt. This Bill only embraces all those operations within Great Britain.

5646. Irrespective of the exemption in favour of Ireland, do you consider that the clauses or regulations introduced into this Act would be advantageous or otherwise to the trade?—I consider it as completely impracticable as it would be to make mushrooms out of moonbeams.

5647. Will you say why you consider it so?—Because it professes to interfere by legislation with all these varieties of operations, and the persons employed in them; and you cannot interfere with the young persons but you interfere, necessarily, with the old ones; they all hang together. It will interfere with the operations of preparing, cleaning, scouring, bleaching, dyeing, finishing, calendering, dressing, embossing, or tambouring any woven fabric, or twist or yarn,

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yarn, or in packing, carrying or conveying, or in aiding or assisting in any other labour or process connected with bleaching, dyeing or finishing. Now, when you come to look for a moment upon that, any one who knows anything must see that it is utterly impracticable.

5648. Now will you have the goodness to turn to Bill No. 2, which is the Bill of 1855, introduced by Mr. Butt. What is your opinion in reference to the legislation contained in that Bill, as applicable to the trades mentioned in it?—This Bill says, that "the words 'bleaching-work' shall be taken to mean any field, enclosure, building, shed, drying-ground, store-loft, lapping-room, lapping-loft, dressing-shop, bleaching-croft, drying-house, clamping-room, beetling-place, calendering-room, mangling-room, or any other premises or place whatsoever, whether open, enclosed or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the occupation, trade or business of a bleacher, dyer or finisher, or any employment connected with such trades or businesses before mentioned, or any of them."

5649. Do you consider it possible to apply the provisions of that Bill to the trades specified in it?—It is utterly impossible; it is not within the reach of man's mind to conceive anything like a possibility attaching to it, or the slightest scintilla of a possibility.

5650. Now will you turn to Bill No. 3, which is the Bill of 1856?—Of course this Bill of Lord Shaftesbury's and this in 1855 vary; and this Bill of 1856 varies from the one of 1855. This is the Bill of March 1856; and it says, "the words, 'bleaching work,' shall be taken to mean any field, inclosure, building, shed, drying-ground, store-loft, lapping-room, lapping-loft, dressing-shop, bleaching croft, drying-house, clamping-room, beetling-place, calendering-room, mangling-room, making-up and packing-room, and warehouse, or any other premises or place whatsoever, whether open, inclosed or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the process, occupation, trade or business of a bleacher, dyer or finisher, maker-up and packer, or any employment connected with such trades or business beforementioned, or any of them."

5651. Do you consider that with due regard to the trade of the country, in reference to the points touched upon by this Bill, it would be possible to apply the provisions of the Bill to those trades?—I should think it is impossible to do it, whether injurious or otherwise; it could not be done: and I fancy that the gentlemen whose names are endorsed upon the back of the Bill (that is, Mr. Butt, Lord John Manners, Viscount Goderich, and Mr. Crook) must have found that out, for they brought in another six weeks afterwards. This one applies to every description of manufactured article, twist and yarn, woollen, worsted, and all the rest of them, and mixed fabrics; and it applies to every description of occupation, even a warehouse; it applies even to paper-making, and everything of that kind.

5652. Do you think that that discovery was made when another Bill was introduced in April of the same year?—The discovery must have been made the same Session, for this was ordered to be printed on March the 4th, and another Bill was ordered to be printed on the 16th of April.

5653. Have you read that Bill?—I have.

5654. What is your opinion of the provisions of that Bill, with reference to the trades it contemplates?—It says, "The words 'bleaching work'" (this is the same, though a clause very different), "whenever they occur in this Act, shall be taken to mean any enclosure, room, house, shed, building, or other premises or place whatsoever, whether open or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the trade or business of a bleacher or dyer of linen or cotton goods, or in which, in the trade and business of a bleacher or dyer, any woven fabric or twist, or yarn of linen or cotton, shall be bleached or dyed, or in which any process incidental to such bleaching or dyeing shall be carried on." Now this is, I think, strangely different to the last; the last grasped everything, and this only touches two things; it only touches linen or cotton; it does not touch even those things in a mixed state, of which we know there are enormous quantities manufactured in Ireland; it only touches those two articles, linen or cotton, and not even them in a mixed state. Then it says, "Whenever any of the processes of calendering, finishing, making-up or packing any linen or other fabrics, after the same shall have been bleached or dyed, or any other process used in the preparation of such dyed or bleached goods, shall be carried on in connexion with any bleaching-work, as above defined, then and in that case all calendering-rooms, mangling-rooms, lapping-rooms, lapping-lofts, and all other rooms, buildings and premises of what nature or kind whatsoever, in which any such processes shall be so carried on, shall be

be deemed to be part of such bleaching-work, within the meaning of this Act." Therefore all other these places, these callendering-rooms, lapping-rooms, packing-rooms, and all the rest of the works that are in connexion with the bleaching-works are connected with the Bill. Now, I ask myself, "What is the meaning of the term 'in connexion with?'" I may have a finishing work in Manchester in connexion with my bleaching-works in Bolton, and if so, I cannot work in my place in Manchester beyond a certain hour; whereas the man that has no bleaching-works may be working, and he may be next door to me; so that in trying to get off the rock Scylla they seem to have tumbled in with the whirlpool Charybdes.

5655. So that these Bills, either taken separately or taken as a whole, in your opinion, are a description of legislation that it would be impossible altogether to carry out, and it would be injurious to the productive interests of the country?—They are the finest specimen of an attempt at peddling legislation that ever came before the British House of Commons; that is my opinion of them.

5656. You have been accustomed, I believe, to dye a variety of materials of cloth, mixed and otherwise?—Yes, I have; I have been accustomed to muslin-de-laines; I have been accustomed to mixed fabrics, woollen and cotton; and I have seen something of other mixed fabrics.

5657. In your opinion, is it a more healthy occupation or a less healthy occupation than the bleaching of linen or the bleaching of cotton?—I should say that one is just as healthy as the other; there is no unhealthiness about them; it is a very healthy employment.

5658. Is the bleaching of mixed fabrics, in your opinion, as healthy as the bleaching of unmixed fabrics?—Just so, with regard to linen and cotton; I am not quite sure with regard to cotton and woollen; I am not sure whether the bleaching and dyeing of woollen is quite as healthy as that of cotton and linen.

5659. You have no doubt as to the healthiness of cotton and linen?—I have no doubt as to them.

5660. Do any of these mixed fabrics come over from Ireland to England to be dyed or dressed?—Yes; that is the beauty of the thing. Goods go to Ireland to be dyed and finished, and come back to Manchester to be sold; and on the other hand, there are mixed fabrics sent from Belfast to Barnsley to be bleached, and then sent back again to be sold; so that we are all in one boat.

5661. Did you ever imitate linen, silk, or other fabrics in the finishing of cottons?—I would undertake to sell, even to you yourself, cotton goods for linen; I imitate in cotton almost every description of linen that is made in Ireland or in Scotland, and also that which is made in Holland, and in Germany and in France; goods so finished go to the foreign markets, and they cannot tell them from the others. I dare say the manufacturers are much injured in Ireland by it; but I am obliged to obey orders. It is the same with regard to worsteds. We were doing some damasks and finishing them so as to deceive Mr. Bridson, who is as clever a man as most in the bleaching trade, and a man accustomed to judge of patterns. I said to him, "Here are a bundle of patterns; I am starting a new trade, Mr. Bridson, what do you think of it." He said, "Are you dyeing worsted?" and I said, "Why not?" They were cotton goods, but he did not know them from worsted; and so it is with other things. We imitate also some silks; in fact, we imitate China silks. I had musters from Shanghai soon after the port was opened; I think the most beautiful workmanship I ever saw in my life, both in the weaving, and in the spinning, and in the dyeing; they had every variety of shade and colour. That silk has been imitated in cotton, and finished in such a way that it is now a very large trade in Manchester, to send the brocades of cotton to China. And I have been able to get a most beautiful illustration of the mode in which the Chinese perform their labour, their manufacture, their spinning, their weaving, their dyeing, and all the rest. Their dyeing is effected much as we performed it 25 years ago in Manchester.

5662. Is foreign competition upon the increase, in your judgment?—Most decidedly, and most formidably upon the increase.

5663. Is it a formidable opposition?—It is most formidable. Now from the United States, they will club together, and charter a ship and send different descriptions of goods from one port to another, and undersell us. In some articles their goods are sold before ours are asked for; and they have a very rapid medium in financial matters for commodities of all kinds. It is principally English money that their transactions are based upon; but they are beating us out of many markets.

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5664. Have great improvements been made in the bleaching process in Lancashire of late years?—They have, so far as regards the processes of working the cloths; I call them improvements, for there is a saving of labour in them. They do not do the work better, but there is a saving of labour and time.

5665. Are any such improvements going on upon the Continent, in anticipation of or following up those which we produce here?—There are many improvements; for instance, I believe the masters have fitted up their works in a very superior manner in this style; and I am putting up a house myself upon a principle which I saw in the year 1827 in Belgium, at Ghent, and I think I saw it again there in the year 1844, with some improvements.

5666. Is there any legislative enactment with respect to the hours of labour in Belgium?—In Belgium I think there is not. They are progressing very much in trade in Belgium; they have had a number of men there from our part of the country. When the Lancashire man speaks broad, he finds that the Belgians can understand him, and therefore they have less objection to going over there to assist the Belgians, and their competition is very effectual.

5667. Do you know it to be a fact that they are attracting English workmen over to Belgium for the purpose of carrying on their manufactures?—Yes; and they have also another opportunity which we have not. We have an absurd patent law in this country; persons taking out patents are obliged so to specify them that when their patents are expired a man of ordinary understanding can carry out in this country that invention. Then, to make it more absurd, there is a law which enables a man to apply to the Privy Council for an extension of his patent after it is over, so that when a patent is upon the point of expiring, and we are preparing to use it after it has expired, all our expense is in vain if the Privy Council should extend it. Whilst we are in this condition the foreigners take advantage of those patented things which are brought into profitable use (which are not more than one in a thousand), without stint and without restriction. I am quite satisfied that, if it were not for this patent law, the objections to that mode of finishing muslins which is carried on in Scotland, and in some parts of Lancashire, would have been removed, and that the "Swiss" mode, which I was speaking of yesterday, would have come into action long ago, if the law of patents were not in the way; there are patents in the way of it now. Where they are not in the way, as for example in Belgium, they have adopted various improved operations; and it is not in Belgium alone, but in Germany and Switzerland, and France and Prussia, and also in Russia, that improvements are being carried out.

5668. Is there not constant competition with these countries?—Yes; but I spoke of Belgium more than the rest, because I have been there more than in other places.

5669. Have you formed a decided opinion that the application of this Ten Hours' Bill to your trade would be injurious to the trade?—I believe that the application of this principle of legislation to my trade, and to what is embraced in it, would be very injurious to the general interests of the trade and manufacture of this country, and not only to my trade itself. I do not see how it is possible for the Legislature to pass a partial Act for interfering merely with linen or cotton works when everything is mixed up together in such an extraordinary manner.

5670. Mr. *Kirk*.] When you were looking over the various Bills that have been proposed on this subject, did not you remark that they were different from each other?— Certainly.

5671. And that the Bill No. 3 was the most stringent of the four?—It was the most grasping; it embraced the greatest range.

5672. Did it not embrace the Manchester and other warehousemen?—Certainly.

5673. Did it not apply not merely to the times of packing, but to the times of conveying the goods to and from the warehouse?—Yes, and to the times of conveying them from one room to another.

5674. Is it your opinion that that was one cause of the change of the Bills from No. 3 to No. 4?—I believe that when the Manchester merchants found that they were in the net, they began to struggle, and they broke through the mesh; so the proposers of the Bill mended the net and strengthened the cordage, expecting it to hold a few fish, that is to say, the linen and the cotton bleachers.

5675. I think you said that you were acquainted with the Print Works Act?—I have read it, and have worked under it.

5676. What is your opinion of that Act in comparison with these Bills; which

is the more stringent?—The Print Works Act admits no person under the age of eight, but the Bill, I think, admits no person under the age of 11. The Print Works Act allows children, women, and young persons, to work until ten o'clock at night; but I think the Bill only allows them to work till six. This new Bill endeavours to embrace in it all that is objectionable in the Print Works Act; there are the inspectors and the doctors, and all that kind of thing.

5677. Is it not the fact that when the Print Works Act was passed in 1845, the same Committee that passed that Act rejected one with regard to bleach-works?—The same Committee (it was a Committee of the whole House), after an investigation by Sir James Graham, struck the bleaching-works out of the Print Works Bill.

5678. Were not the bleach-works and the dye-works originally in the Bill?—I believe they were in the Bill on the second reading, and were struck out in a Committee of the whole House; I am not quite sure of that; I am merely speaking from recollection, but I believe it was so.

5679. Though the Print Works Act was not extended to the bleach-works, would not these Bills, or any of them, if carried out, be much more stringent than that Act would have been?—There would be more restriction in them, and they would be open to the same objection as the Print Works Act.

5680. *Chairman.*] Are you under any apprehension of competition with the United States?—I have seen it, and I know it from conversation with merchants with whom I have been doing business.

5681. Can you tell the Committee what are the hours of labour in the bleaching establishments in the United States?—Some of my men have gone to work there and have come back again, and I have talked to them about it; and one of them said that he began work as soon as he could see to tie his shoes, and he did not give over till he could not see to untie them.

5682. That is to say, that he worked the whole day?—Yes; that was his own expression; his work seemed to extend throughout the whole period of daylight; he was a true bred Lancashire man, and they are very figurative in their expressions.

5683. If the people work only during daylight in the United States, do you think that they work later than eight o'clock in the evening in the summer, and four or five o'clock in the winter?—I have never been in the United States, but I know some little of geography, and I think that the days are longer about Philadelphia than they are in Lancashire.

5684. Do you know how much?—I cannot say, because I do not carry these things about geography in my head; when I was a boy I dare say I could have told you.

5685. Do not you imagine that those working people who ask for legislation would be perfectly satisfied if they could be told that under the present system they would only begin to work with the daylight, and would close their work in the day also?—For me to say what I think the working people would be satisfied with would be perfect nonsense, for my plan with my workpeople is to do what is right, and to make them do the same, if I can; but I never consider as to what they will be satisfied with; I consider whether it is right and proper.

5686. Do I rightly understand you to say that you are not in a position to tell this Committee what your workpeople desire in respect to these Bills that are before the Committee?—I do not believe that one of them has seen the Bills.

5687. Are you of opinion that your workpeople have heard nothing upon the subject of these Bills?—I think they have.

5688. Are you of opinion that any of those who have heard of these Bills are in favour of them?—I do not think that if they knew what the Bills were they would be in favour of them; indeed I am sure they would not be in favour of them, if they knew what the Bills were.

5689. Supposing them to be at this moment in ignorance of these Bills, are you of opinion that any of them are favourable to them?—I am not of opinion that they are; I have an opinion, so far as this, that my workpeople would very well like to earn, as any other workpeople would, the same sum of money in less time, or with less labour in the day; but I believe that there is no feeling upon the subject beyond that.

5690. I think that you have told the Committee that some workpeople from Lancashire are going to other countries?—Some have gone from time to time, being beguiled away, and have come back again; I had one only six weeks ago from Belgium, who went because he imagined that it would be a good thing.

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5691. Did I rightly understand you to say, that they were so frequent in Belgium that broad Lancashire was well understood in the establishments in Belgium?—I did not say that they were so frequent that broad Lancashire was now understood in Belgium; it is understood, not because men have gone over so frequently, but because the weavers in Lancashire originally came from Flanders and settled about Bolton, and they talk the dialect now which their ancestors talked there in the time of the Henrys and the Edwards. And when the men from this country have gone to Belgium they have found, to their surprise, that if they only spoke broad enough they could be understood by what are called the lower orders, the working people of Flanders. It is a most extraordinary thing, and it is worth mentioning as a matter of surprise, that the same dialect which the Flemish weavers spoke when they came over in the time of the Henrys and the Edwards is still spoken to such a degree in that part of Lancashire, that when they speak it in Flanders they can make themselves understood.

5692. What were the causes which induced these men to go from the establishments in your neighbourhood to Flanders?—Supposing that a man is a mere private with me, and he has a chance of getting made into a serjeant in Belgium, and getting serjeant's pay, he has an inducement to go away; they get bribed away. In answer to a question that has been put to me as to the feelings of the working people, perhaps I ought to explain further that I should say that young persons who are living with their parents, and whose earnings go to their parents, might prefer working less, and earning less, as it would be the same thing to them; but that those who have what they earn wish for any limitation to the hours of labour, I have never heard.

5693. Mr. *Crook*.] With regard to the steam-gauge, do not you work some of your boilers at a high pressure?—Yes.

5694. How can a man tell by the Salter's balance what is the pressure of steam; if he comes late in the morning, is there any indication of the pressure of the steam until it gets off upon the boiling-off point?—Certainly not; if he had a steam-gauge, the man would tap it with his hand, to make the index go down, till the mercury in the glass is steady. If he will put his hand upon the Salter's steam-gauge, he can tell how low the steam is.

5695. If there is a proper steam-gauge, could not he tell it at once?—I have never seen one yet, except the old mercurial gauge, and that required a tap.

5696. Are you not aware that there is a steam-gauge now made that has no taps about it—Yes, I am; and I am also aware that it is condemned as being dangerous.

5697. Have you such a gauge yourself?—Yes, I have; it is a toy.

5698. The steam-gauge to which I allude consists of a simple syphon, open at one end?—That is the old mercurial tube that I spoke of.

5699. Is it not the fact that this gauge requires no tapping with the hand?—If the dust from the fire flies about when you open the door, it gets into the tube; I often go to look at the height of my steam-gauges, and I have both sorts, some with a string and a peg.

5700. Can you tell by means of the Salter's balance what pressure of steam there is in the boiler?—Yes; I have nothing to do but to pull it down till the steam goes off the valve.

5701. If you can tell anything about it, must it not be by lifting a weight?—No.

5702. Have not you a weight hanging to the Salter's balance?—No; it is a spring; there is no weight.

5703. Does the steam-gauge that you have been recommended to use require that it should be touched with the hand before the man who is attending it can tell the pressure?—The inspector recommended me to get Smith's gauge or Gastorelli's gauge, or some other thing of that kind, and I said, "Before I give up what has served my purpose for 40 years, during which period I have had near 40 boilers sometimes at work, and I have never had an accident, I will know the reason why." It happened a short time afterwards that a boiler burst near Manchester at a bleaching and dyeing-work upon the Bury-road, Hampson mills.

5704. Do you happen to know the explosion at Mr. Smith's works?—No. In the case I am speaking of, the boiler burst, and there was some difference of opinion with regard to the gauge; a person was sent round to examine the gauges at different places, and he gave evidence before the coroner, and he said that one of these same gauges (I think it was Gastorelli's or Smith's) was indicating a difference of as much as ten or twelve pounds pressure upon the square inch; he took

took the absolute pressure, and looked to the indication of this gauge, and there was an error to the amount of five or six pounds pressure upon the square inch in the indication of the gauges; I wrote to Mr. Dickinson, the inspector, to call his attention to this fact, and he wrote to me to say that he agreed with me that a thing depending upon the elasticity of a piece of india-rubber was not quite what ought to be adopted, and that the inspectors generally had come to a resolution in favour of the ordinary tubular mercurial gauge, the syphon gauge.

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5705. The steam-gauge to which I am referring is a simple open syphon, perfectly free to act, requiring no touching, so that the man need not go from his work to see it; it is a free tube which may be seen on all sides?—I saw one of those at Mr. Andrews' works, when he was working the steam up to 100 pounds pressure, but I had not time to look into its principle and character.

5706. Is not it so made that no dust can get into it?—If worked as I saw it, I think that no dust could get into it, but then I would never work steam up to 100 pounds pressure; I do not wonder that Mr. Andrews had got something new, because he was working at a higher pressure than was usual; but I like Salter's spring balance best.

5707. Have you Salter's spring balance fixed up with a spring simply, or with a spring and weight?—I have no recollection of a weight, but I have a spring.

5708. In order to get at the spring would not the man have to go to the top of the boiler?—No; it may be in front of the boiler, or as low as he likes to have it fixed; you may fix them in one part of the boiler as well as in another, wherever they are most convenient to see and to touch. I will try to explain it; supposing we have a boiler, we set our safety-valve to throw off at a greater pressure, and we set our Salter's spring balance to throw off at a lower pressure, and whenever the steam rises to a certain pressure which will lift the valve, the steam will blow away; but when it is at a lower pressure, supposing it blows off at 20, and we wish to see what steam we have in the boiler to draw from for use, we have merely to put our hand on the valve, and the extent to which the gauge rises shows what weight we take off the spring.

5709. How is the spring attached?—It is screwed on; you can adjust it to anything you please; it may be fixed to the end of the boiler.

5710. Has not the man who has to attend to the boiler to put his hand upon the boiler, or to go upon the boiler, in order to get at this valve to see what steam he has?—Not necessarily with Salter's spring balance; then, in addition to that, steam cannot blow off without letting him know, he can hardly help both seeing and hearing it; that being so, he has a further element of safety, which there is not in a common steam-gauge.

5711. Do not you admit that you cannot discover, without touching the gauge, what the pressure is?—I do not; I merely mention this to show how sadly troubled the inspectors were to find work, and what an unnecessary excrescence they are. I may take this opportunity of saying a word upon the subject of the inspectors, that whilst I mention these facts to the Committee, I have reason to know, I may say to believe certainly, and I think, to know, that there is an arrangement now, a compact whereby the police of or relating to shipping, of all sorts, upon the water, centres in the Board of Trade; and the police, of everything upon the land and moving upon its surface, in the Home Department; and that each is desirous of increasing its patronage and power, which rests not so much in the hands of the President of the Board of Trade, or the Secretary of State for the Home Department, but with what are called the red tapists at the Treasury and the Home Department; and we are overrun with the spawn of these places, and have them to keep, and these inspectors are of that stamp.

5712. Did not you state to the Committee that one merchant had discontinued doing business with you, in consequence of your workpeople refusing to work long hours?—I never said anything of the kind; what I said was this, that owing to the agitation of this question (I ascribed it to that) the minds of the people had been unhinged, and we could not get our orders on as we ought to do, and we disappointed one house in Manchester once or twice, and they have sent their goods elsewhere. He was one of those who was reported by Mr. Tremenheere to have given evidence in favour of legislation.

5713. Has that man sent his goods elsewhere permanently, or only for once?—I do not say that he has closed his account with me, but he has sent his goods away; but that was only two or three orders. If they cannot get them done in

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one place, they think perhaps they can get them done in another; except perhaps some finishes that they can only get done in one place.

5714. Could you point out to the Committee the paragraph in Mr. Tremenheere's report, in which he speaks of the bleaching masters as being favourable to legislation?—He said so here the other day; but I have told the Committee that from the time that I saw the print that he sent to me of my evidence, to the time of my coming up to London upon this occasion, I had never seen the report; and I think that under these circumstances it is not to be expected that I should point out any particular passage.

5715. Do you adhere to your statement, that he said that the bleaching masters were favourable to legislation?—I heard him say so in this room in his evidence.

5716. Mr. *Bagster*.] Was not that with regard to the west of Scotland, and not with regard to Lancashire and Cheshire?—No; I understood him to say that the masters in Lancashire were in favour of legislation; but on account of the Committee having refused us the printed Minutes of Evidence, we are in difficulty.

5717. Mr. *Crook*.] Have you any reason to impugn the correctness of the second paragraph of page ix of Mr. Tremenheere's Report, which is as follows: "I am able to say that very few of the employers justify the long hours for the young in themselves"?—I think I could tell that I was not at Mr. Tremenheere's elbow at the time he wrote that paragraph.

5718. Have you any reason to impugn that part of his report?—No; I do not impugn anything except that which I myself know of my own knowledge to be untrue.

5719. Are you very busy at present?—No, we are not.

5720. What length of hours did you average last month?—In May I looked it up, and the statement which I have prepared shows the average of the whole, according to my mode of calculation, at nine hours and a half. You cannot get certainly what time each person was working absolutely at their work or trade; I think that from the statement which I handed to the Committee yesterday, they can form an estimate of the work performed, so that I found that in my works at Firwood, it was upon the average nine hours and a half a day.

5721. That is, estimating eight hours to a day, by piecework?—No, I do not give more than seven hours and a half to a day.

5722. Did not you say something with regard to calculating upon an estimate of piecework?—Yes.

5723. And you estimated by that the number of hours which the people do?—Certainly; I know what they can do in each department, without overstraining, in a certain time; I have already told the Committee that in 1830 I made that list of wages; that I made it upon an estimate of calculation that they should be enabled, at these prices, to earn a day's wages in eight hours; and I say that improvements have been made since then whereby they can do it in less time; that is, in the finishing department.

5724. Did you say that the average in May was nine hours and a half?—The average of the absolute labour wrought in the works would not exceed nine hours and a half per day.

5725. Would you apply that to women and children?—I would apply it to employment universally.

5726. Does it extend beyond the employment of women and children?—Yes; I have no sieve through which I can let one part run out and the other stop; I must give it generally, and I wish to be understood as giving it generally, as applying to all the people in the works.

5727. Are you still of opinion that girls under 18 ought not to be employed more than 60 hours' work in the week or in the night?—You have my words; I wrote to my works the other day for a copy of the letter that Mr. Tremenheere referred to as having been written by me to Mr. Ainsworth; it is as follows: "Firwood, 13th January 1855. Dear Sir,—Mr. Tremenheere tells me you have thrown out an idea that the trade might be satisfied if put under the Printers' Act. I, as a printer, have had experience, and know it will not do; and I have said to Mr. T., that if he were to see your signature, together with mine and those of Mr. Blair and Mr. Benley, he might consider we spoke the mind of the bleaching trade of Lancashire to a very considerable extent. I have said as follows to Mr. Tremenheere; 'Although I object to legislation, I shall be glad indeed

indeed to see no children under 11 employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely, between 5. 30. in the morning, and 8. 30. at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week, within those daily hours. The Legislature, in the Acts for regulating labour, has, I believe, established the hours from 5. 30. in the morning to 8. 30. at night, as constituting day-time.' I go on Monday to Penylan by the train, at 12. 40. from Bolton, for a week. Yours, truly (signed) James Hardcastle. J. H. H. Ainsworth, Esq."

5728. Are you still of opinion that young women should not be employed in the night, or for more than 60 hours a week?—What I have said in this letter to Mr. Tremenheere is in print, and I do not repudiate it; I adhere to it; I never repudiated anything. Mr. Tremenheere told the Committee that I had repudiated something; I say that that is utterly false; I never repudiated anything; but I say that that is utterly false.

5729. Have you at present a school on your works?—No; we have not one on the works; we never had, but we have one near; we have built two large schools since that in the neighbourhood.

5730. It has been stated in evidence to this Committee by Mr. Thomas Miller, that there is a school attached to your works; is that so?—There are many things attached to the works, and attached to me.

5731. Is there any school attached to you?—A school means a number of children; a school-house is another thing. There may be a school attached to my works, and I daresay there is.

5732. Are you connected with the school-house or schoolmaster, who pays especial attention to your workpeople's children?—He pays no more attention to my workpeople's children than to any other people's children. My benevolence does not confine itself to my works, but it extends further than that.

5733. Were not you instrumental in establishing a school in the neighbourhood?—It is the school of the townships of Tonge.

5734. Could you tell the Committee the particulars about the class of persons who attend this school from your works?—I do not know it, for this reason: I have laid before me every quarter the names of every person that attends, both male and female, through that quarter, and I make inquiries and satisfy myself as to the truth of it. But I never ask whose people they are.

5735. You cannot give me any information as to the attendance of the young people of your works at school?—I do not separate them from the others, but my impression is that they do attend, for if not I should hear something about it; they must either attend school or be idle.

5736. We have had evidence from a man who has been 24 years in your employment, that the children who do attend school attend before they begin to be employed?—Very likely it is so; that is before they are 13 years old; I should think they did.

5737. We have it also further stated by the same witness, that they cannot attend after they begin to work; is that so?—They cannot attend regularly, but they may occasionally. And there are common things that people have to learn, that they can learn after they begin to work; what they have learned in the school is very uncertain.

5738. You say that the employment that you give to your people at Firwood is pretty steady?—I mean to say that we have a very old established, and respectable and steady connexion for Firwood.

5739. Does it vary very much?—Yes, it varies very much. I could have given the same report for May 1856 which I have given for this year, if I had thought of it.

5740. Is your work more steady now than it was in 1854?—I should hardly think that there is much difference; this last month money has been scarce; and from one thing or another there has not been so much business doing as usual; people have not sent so many goods; when money is scarce we do not get so much to do; if money is plentiful we get more.

5741. You say that the bleaching process, that is to say, the whitening process preparatory to finishing, is systematic, do you mean by that that the workpeople manage to make their hours tolerably regular?—I could not explain that to any one who does not understand the trade. What I mean by systematic is this: if you were to go there you would see that in the bleaching house, which to all appearance is a perfect chaos, there was the utmost regularity; you would find

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things going in at one end grey, and you would find them coming out white at the other, but you would never know how it was done. You would find goods of fifty different kinds requiring twenty different operations, coming out as neat as can be in their own rooms, with now and then the exception of a piece or two. But to explain how that system is arrived at, which has been the work of years, at this table and in this room ought not to be expected of me.

5742. Do you say that the bleaching process is systematic as compared with the finishing?—Yes; I will try to explain to you what I mean by the word "systematic;" taking these goods in the grey, we have nothing to do with them but to make them white; we then establish what I should call a system, or a mode of procedure that should be steady and continuous whereby that should be done; but supposing that we have one week, or one day more to do than we have at another day, the system does not alter, but the amount of labour will alter; it will be one day more and another day less, but the system remains the same.

5743. Then your remark about systematic labour had no reference to time or to hours?—I have heard that there is some connexion between Goodwin Sands and Tenterden church steeple, but whether there is a connexion between time and working I cannot tell.

5744. Had this word "systematic" anything to do with the hours during which the operatives work?—It must necessarily comprise their labour; but a system could not comprise the amount of labour.

5745. Did not you tell the Committee that the bleaching process was systematic, but that the finishing process was not systematic?—It is not capable of being reduced to a system. The bleaching process is so far reduced to a system now as to be almost mechanical, though it is chemical and scientific; our endeavour has been to make it as much as possible mechanical; it is on account of that, that the men who come at five o'clock in the morning are able to go away again at two o'clock, having earned a day and a half's wages, and they will do that day by day; if a man wants to be off for a day he will bid for a night lump. These young boys come to get a parcel of cloth ready for another set for the morning; they will often do this when they want a frolic for the day.

5746. To do this work do you require women and children?—Those who want the frolics are the young lads; but we employ no women in the bleaching department.

5747. Can they go on with their work without employing anybody else?—The pullers can; they are the people that pull up the cloth.

5748. Did not you state to the Committee that the bleaching process was systematic, but that the finishing process you left to the workpeople?—I stated that the bleaching process was systematic, but I did not say that the finishing process was left to the workpeople.

5749. You stated to Mr. Tremenheere "that, since the inquiry in 1843, the hours of working have been much diminished;" are you still of opinion that the hours of working are diminished as compared with what they used to be?—Yes.

5750. Can you point out to the Committee any great evils that have resulted from these more regular hours of labour?—No.

5751. Have the workpeople been impoverished by it?—Certainly not.

5752. Are the masters any worse off than they used to be?—No, we have been able to do the same work in less time, but with different arrangements, and it is what we have been always studying; it has been the study of my life.

5753. Have the bleach-works been shut up, or have they largely extended within the last 14 years?—I do not know that there are any new bleach-works, but I know that those which exist go on; I am not doing more than I used to do.

5754. Are you aware that there are some firms who are bleaching a much larger quantity of cloth than they did 14 years ago?—I do not inquire into other people's business, and therefore I am not able to answer that question.

5755. Are there any complaints from merchants with regard to these improved hours that you speak of?—I should say that we execute their orders as promptly now as we ever did. They give us the longest day, and they can rely upon us just as well as if they had the goods in their own warehouse.

5756. Can you point out to the Committee any evils that have resulted from the shorter hours of labour that have taken place since 1843?—Certainly not.

5757. Is there any reason to think that you have contemplated shutting up, yourself, during that time, inasmuch as you say that if the Factory Act were applied

applied to bleach-works, you would have to shut up?—Yes; I have absolutely contemplated shutting up.

5758. Under what circumstances could that be?—Because the toil and labour and the annoyance would more than counterbalance anything that I got by it, and I have seriously contemplated getting out of it in case of legislative interference.

5759. Was not that when you took an unduly unfavourable impression of the prospects of business?—I never did take an unduly unfavourable impression of the prospects of business.

5760. Since you did not shut up, may we not conclude that you have looked more hopefully upon business since that time?—I have never changed my conclusion about business in my life.

5761. You say that you did once contemplate shutting up?—Yes; because I was sick of inspectors and that kind of thing, and I thought that if I was going to have them about my bleach-works, meddling with my workpeople, I should have a good deal of annoyance, and I would begin to see if I could not get away from it, and that feeling continues; it is with me now; it is not because I have any fear about business. At the same time, there is a wide difference between the state of things now and what it was some years ago. When I became a bleacher we were paid 2 *s.* 3 *d.* for what we are now paid 9 *d.*; again, a piece of goods that was worth 25 *s.* or 26 *s.* is now worth 5 *s.*; so that there is a very small margin for the purpose of legislating upon, and a very slight space in which to try experiments. The margin is very narrow indeed.

5762. Have you any notion that if the Factory Act were to be extended to the bleach-works, it would have any effect upon the prices of bleaching?—I do not know that; but I know that if I had not my money, the men would go without their wages, for I cannot find money in the street: if I have not money from the business the men must go without.

5763. Do you think that it would raise prices?—It must of necessity, or the work would stop.

5764. Are you aware that the bleaching masters in the neighbourhood of Bolton have a union among themselves?—I am aware that they have not any union.

5765. Have you no association?—I am not associated with anybody but myself and my wife.

5766. Have you no reason to think that there is an association amongst the bleachers?—There are a number of gentlemen who meet together on the first and third Saturdays of every month, mainly for convivial purposes, but I am not one of them; but that is a union of men to spend a very agreeable afternoon. They have a capital cellar of wine there. I have not been a member for near 20 years, but I believe it is carried on in nearly the same way as it used to be.

5767. Have not you honoured them with your company lately?—Not for near 20 years. I think they not only dine at the Albion, but they go where they can be best served.

5768. Have you heard anything with regard to their contributions to the opposition to this Bill?—They have never contributed a farthing to it.

5769. You are speaking according to the best of your belief?—I know they have not contributed anything, for if they had I should have found it out.

5770. You do not happen to know that they have employed Parliamentary agents here in order to oppose any legislation upon the subject?—I am quite sure that they have not; if they had I must have known it.

5771. Have you any information which leads you to suppose that the leading object of this masters' union is to keep up prices?—When it started their object was to establish a minimum list of prices; there was no minimum, and I and others thought that it would be better to have something as a minimum, and we met to see if we could agree upon what that something should be, and we did agree to minimum prices; that minimum was 3,000 *l.* less than I received for the three years working. And we had another object, that instead of looking like two bulls ready to butt at each other, if two bleachers met in a warehouse we could speak and shake hands with comfort together, which we could do after we had dined together, and found that we were not so very bad as we fancied.

5772. Do not you think that the object of this association was to remove the bone of contention between you, so that you might meet in a friendly manner?—That was one object, to create friendly feeling.

5773. To promote a friendly feeling with regard to prices?—Yes, and with regard to other things; and there was another advantage in it; we found some

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people would say, "What is your price?" we should say, we are getting 1 *s.* a piece. "Oh," the other party would say, "Mr. So-and-so will do them for 11 *d.*"; and so we might be reduced to 11 *d.*; but of course, if we were upon friendly terms, we could say to each other, "Are you doing such a thing for 11 *d.*?" The reply might be, "No, not a piece;" whereas, if we were on unfriendly terms, we could not put such a question. I think it is a very wise proceeding.

5774. Are you aware that this association influences the prices of bleaching at present?—I do not think it does, except in the way I have mentioned. The bleachers keep on good terms with one another, and therefore, perhaps, now and then it has the effect of preventing their being imposed upon by an incorrect story. Some people will use a subterfuge, which others would not think right, in order to get a good price. Now we have, by a little communication, prevented that; and likewise, I think that the tendency is rather to prevent prices going down, as I have stated here.

5775. Is that the object of this association?—That is the main object, and the dinners.

5776. Do not you consider that a tampering with trade?—Not at all; its object is to prevent trade being tampered with. I should say that "tampering" is a word that I do not quite understand, as being applicable to the subject.

5777. You have stated that you object to this legislation upon a principle that admits of few exceptions; what principle is it against which this legislation tends?—I was asked if I objected to legislative restrictions upon a principle which admits of few exceptions; and as a definition of the word "principle," I have quoted Sir Walter Raleigh.

5778. Will you tell me, in a few words, upon what principle you object to the regulation of labour?—Upon this principle, that if you meddle with it you are more likely to do harm than good; I think that may be called a principle.

5779. That principle applies only with reference to labour; what is your opinion with reference to any other matters of trade?—It applies with reference to restrictions in the price of food.

5780. Are you of opinion that the Legislature cannot meddle with the price of food?—Yes; and they have found out that it will not do, and they have given over meddling.

5781. Have you any instance to cite to the Committee in which legislation has been injurious, with reference to the employment of labour, or to commercial enterprise?—If the Committee will let me know that they are prepared to accept evidence upon that subject, I will be prepared to give it.

5782. At present, you do not know any legislation upon the subject of the hours of labour, or any branch of commerce, that has done damage?—My reply is, that to be called upon at a moment like this to state anything upon this subject is not quite fair; but if you will give me the opportunity of collecting evidence, I dare say I shall be able to find it.

5783. Mr. *Packe.*] I think you said that the average hours of labour in your establishment were nine hours and a half a day?—Yes; that was in the month of May; I have found that in my Firwood works it was so, as nearly as it possibly could be; the work done would, on an average, be accomplished within nine hours and a half in the month of May last.

5784. Do you limit your statement to the hours in the month of May?—I do, because I have a return only for the month of May.

5785. Will you be so good as to tell the Committee what was the maximum number of hours that was worked in a day in the month of May?—I could not tell what was the greatest number of hours worked in any one day by any one person without inquiry at the works.

5786. Did not you arrive at your result by taking the maximum and the minimum number of hours, and then striking an average?—No. We know exactly how many days in the month each set of people have worked; and, according to this scale, we know the time of steady labour that it ought to take for them to earn the money which they earn, and from that we strike the average. I am told that the person to whom the honourable Member for Bolton referred, Thomas Miller, had given evidence here; and it is very unfortunate that the Committee has refused us the printed evidence, because then I should be in a condition to answer these questions. He has been 24 years with me, and I dare say that his appearance would not show that he has been ill used in those 24 years. He said that he had worked 36 hours continuously at the beetles in my works.

works. Now, he was the foreman of these beetles, and he was the person to direct the hours of working, and if he worked 36 hours at once, it was occasioned by his own greed of gain. For myself, I never heard of such a thing; but it was his own act and deed, and caused by his own greed of gain, and nothing else.

5787. Does the average of work, night and day, include females and boys as well as those of adult age?—It does; because they work in sets together. There is a great variety in this department. In dividing the wages, we know the quantity that a good healthy person is bound to do in a day, and then we have a calculation of the rate per 100. The work is laid out by a standard per 100, and then it is spread among them all *pro ratâ* for women and children.

5788. Mr. *Kirk*.] The witness Thomas Miller, to whom you just alluded, stated that you employed women in your beetling departments; did not you state the reverse?—I am not aware that we do; I never saw one in all our beetling departments in my life. I may say with regard to my beetling, that it has been a very insignificant affair latterly, for Ireland has beaten us out of the field, and they may have put a woman or two there without my orders, for I have taken very little notice of it, but I have never seen one there.

5789. If there are women, it is an exception?—I do not know that there are; I cannot suppose it possible; I think it is very unlikely.

5790. Is not it the fact that there has been an extension of the spinning of cotton yarn in Lancashire?—Yes.

5791. Has the extension of bleaching and dyeing been equal to the extension of cotton spinning in Lancashire?—The extension of cotton spinning has been a very great extension; still there has been a very great extension of bleaching and dyeing, but it does not keep pace in any degree with the extension of the production of the grey cloth. The great bulk of goods now go abroad in the grey; in China they use many of them for dyeing; they dye there as they do here; others are used for their mourning white; there is a good market for these grey calicoes; they put them out in the sun, and water them, and then they are soon white enough for the common people. We find that whereas there were formerly no grey goods sent by people engaged in the China trade, now there are very few white ones.

5792. Mr. *Dalglish*.] You spoke of nine hours and a half as being the average hours of work in the month of May; have you never, during the last 12 months, worked more than nine hours and a half?—Yes.

5793. During the other months, have you worked more?—I should think so; I should think that they must go up to 10 hours and a half. Perhaps in the fullest month they have been more than 10 hours and a half this year.

5794. Last year, during your busiest season, what was the period you worked?—I could not carry my memory back any further than this year, so as to give you such an answer as I should like to give.

5795. Did not it average beyond 10 hours and a half?—No; 10, 11 and 12 have been worked. There have been people there all that time; they are there a long time when they are not working. The atmosphere of the rooms is more agreeable than that of their own habitations, and they have every opportunity of social intercourse.

5796. Can you always procure orders for your works when you want them?—I wish I could; but I am sorry to say that I cannot.

5797. Have you occasionally an excess of work over your power of production?—Occasionally we have.

5798. On those occasions I suppose you want workers?—Occasionally we want workers.

5799. Do you think that an Act of Parliament could be framed to regulate the supply of orders, so as to enable all the bleach-works and dye-works of the country to supply them for 10 hours during all the 12 months?—No, no more than it could arrange for a supply of wind for blowing Her Majesty's fleet; they have just the same power in one case as in the other.

5800. Supposing that bleach-works were employed during the busy season 12 hours a day occasionally, how much would you require to extend your works so as to overtake that work in 10 hours?—I do not know how I could extend the works; they are not things that are expansive in all their parts; they would be one part upon another; and the only mode of extension would be to build, as it were, a new additional work, somewhere near our old one, if I had conveniences of water; you must have water and other conveniences for it.

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5801. Supposing that you made this extension, would it be equal to one-fifth of your present works?—I cannot tell.

5802. Would you require to increase the number of your workpeople also?—Yes; they would have full employment at one time and there would be half employment at another; and whilst they had that half employment they would be grumbling and growling, and getting into mischief.

5803. Would not wages decrease in that case?—Of course; each man in certain seasons.

5804. And in certain seasons would not you have more work than in others?—Some trades are much more governed by seasons than my own. I have a trade in the Levant and Italy, and it does not fluctuate so much by seasons as others; but the variety of my work is great. For instance, an order may come quite unexpectedly for 5,000 pieces of Irishes and Scotch hollands; all our machinery that is capable of doing Scotch hollands may not be able to turn out more than 500 a day, or something of that kind, and then we are in a fix; we have to put all that we can on to this description of finishing. Then it requires a particular description of fold, and we have only a certain number of people who can make that fold. Then it requires a particular description of ornamenting and trimming, and stamping and preparing, and all that kind of thing; and many people cannot be taken from other departments to execute that order, and they are subject to work longer. Some kinds of finishing and folds take longer than others: the plain kinds of fold take a very short time. The possibility of being steadily and closely employed in my works is very remote indeed; I cannot conceive the possibility.

5805. Supposing an Act were passed to restrict the employment of women and boys to certain hours, from six in the morning to six at night, would not that virtually legislate for the men also?—Most undoubtedly; and that is what I think it is intended to do. I was told that the honourable Member for Glasgow wished to ask me some questions as to the hot places. I may state that by the Swiss mode of which I was speaking, all that is objectionable in them can be removed if people choose to adopt it.

Stephen Blair, Esq., called in; and Examined.

S. Blair, Esq.

5806. *Chairman.*] I THINK you are a partner in the firm of Blair & Sumner, of Bolton, carrying on the trade of Bleachers and Finishers?—Yes, I am.

5807. From 1848 to 1852 you represented the borough of Bolton in Parliament?—I did.

5808. How long have you been engaged in this business?—Since 1819 I have been employed in the bleaching trade.

5809. How many workpeople do you employ?—One hundred and twenty-seven on the works.

5810. Can you state their different ages?—I have a statement made out of the ages of the different people whom we employ.

5811. What is the youngest that you employ?—The youngest that we employ is 11, but we have only one of that age; we have a total of nine under 13; eight boys and one girl, one boy of 11, two boys of 12, and a girl of 12; all the others are upwards of that age.

5812. Have you of late years introduced machinery extensively in your operations?—I have, in all the departments in the process of bleaching; I have now machinery that takes the cloth in the first instance; we stitch it altogether, and we never unstitch the cloth until it is bleached white; we do all by machinery. We used to employ a great number of hands in the bleaching department, but now we only employ two men and 17 boys to the whole of it.

5813. In other works, where that class of machinery is not introduced, men are engaged in passing the cloth through the various operations?—The men are engaged in finishing and callendering departments, and also in the stoving.

5814. Was the result of your introduction of machinery to displace them?—It displaced a great number of people in the bleaching departments.

5815. Would legislation, in reference to bleach-works, have a tendency, or otherwise, to increase the use of this machinery?—I think that it would have a tendency to increase the use of machinery.

5816. And thereby displace manual labour?—And thereby displace manual labour.

5817. What

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5817. What effect has the introduction of machinery had in reference to the number of hours in your establishment?—It has made the number of hours more regular, and of course the work can be done in a much shorter time by that means.

5818. Has it lessened the extremes ever since its introduction?—It has in our departments very much; the work is a great deal more regular.

5819. Have you any statement which you can place before the Committee, regarding the variation of the work done between one month and another?—I have the variations of work from the time that Mr. Tremenheere called at our works, which are all in the table of the report.

5820. Are those subsequent to those that were put in that report?—Yes; there were several; the last was 1853, and then 1854, 1855 and 1856 are here.

5821. The scales put in by Mr. Tremenheere at page 30, show a difference between the highest and lowest point of labour at 155 and 151 per cent.?—Yes.

5822. Do yours show a similar difference?—Not so much; for the year 1854 it is 57·64; in 1855, 92·37, and in 1856, 86·17.

5823. Has that class of machinery to which you referred, been put in since Mr. Tremenheere made his report?—Yes; it is the machinery that has been put in since that, the particular machinery that I am speaking of with regard to the bleaching; and then with regard to the callendering, we have speeded the callenders quicker, and are able to get through more work in a less time.

5824. So that this diagram that Mr. Tremenheere put in his report shows a variation of upwards of 50 per cent. that would not exist now?—It has not existed; I do not know what it might be in future; there might be fluctuation in the goods that we might receive from our customers; of some goods, in one month, we have a great deal, of some goods very little. In the month that we have had very little to do the workpeople have been nearly as long upon the premises.

5825. Will you hand that paper in?—(*The same was handed in.*)

Vide Appendix.

5826. Have you a paper showing the amount of hours worked through the last year?—Yes, I have.

5827. What average does that show?—The average altogether, taking all the rates together, is 10½ hours per day.

5828. Is that a fair average?—It is not the real work and the time that it lasts; it is the time that the workpeople are on the ground, but it is not the time that they work, because sometimes one set has to wait for another; they do not always get employed at the same time; some have to wait for work, still they stay on the ground. The table I have, giving the number of hours, is the hours the people are on the ground, but not the hours that they worked.

5829. Can you state to this Committee the maximum and the minimum of those hours from whence you draw your average?—I have a book in which the hours are put in; sometimes we have not worked more than two or three hours a day, and I believe there has been 16 hours in the day; that is the greatest extreme; the least is three or four or five, and some days we have not worked at all.

5830. Does that include the two hours for meals?—That includes the two hours for meals, so that the greatest amount would be 14 hours of labour.

5831. Has that been continuous labour?—No, they have had to wait sometimes; I have got a place for the men, where there are newspapers and things for them to read, and also a smoking-room, where they can go and smoke; and with respect to the girls, I think there is not a more industrious set of girls than they are, for when they are waiting for work, they are always making their own dresses, or making something or other for themselves.

5832. Mr. *Packe.*] Does that 10½ hours include time for meals?—The 10½ hours includes the meal-times; if I took the meals away, it would be eight hours and a half.

5833. Does the maximum of 16 hours include the meal-times also?—Yes; it is the time that they have to come in the morning; they have a fixed time to come in the morning, and they go away at night when they have done.

5834. Mr. *Cheetham.*] It is the time that they are actually on the premises?—It is the time they are actually on the premises; the time is fixed in the morning, and then they go away when their work is done at night.

5835. So that, though in the extreme cases the 16 hours is spent upon the premises by the workman, part of that time he would be reading and recreating himself for work?—He is not at work the whole of the time.

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5836. Will you hand that paper in to the Committee?—(*The same was handed in.*)

5837. Is there any difference between the time of working in the bleaching departments and in the other departments?—No; there is very little difference with us.

5838. We have had evidence before us, that in your establishment there is a considerable difference in that respect; is that so?—There used to be a considerable difference with us, but, by the introduction of machinery, that difference is obviated, and it is made more regular.

5839. What is your opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of employing girls so young as 11 years of age in the bleach-works?—I do not think that there is any occasion to employ them at all under 11; we have none under 11, and have not had any for many years.

5840. It has been stated in the evidence before this Committee, that these young children have been compelled, through influence brought to bear upon their parents, to attend the bleach-works at the age of 11 and under; is that the case with you?—We have people upon the books who are wanting to come; the parents wish their children to come; they want them to make money for them, and we will not take them, unless they can read and write. We adopted that plan for the purpose of getting them to school; for I am sorry to say, that I find that where the people upon my books are making the greatest wages, their families are receiving the least education.

5841. As to the women employed in your establishment, are they employed in hot places where the temperature is high?—No, we have no hot places where we have any women employed; we have only a stove, and the cloth cannot be hung in the stove when it is hot. It is hung by a beam from the top of the room, and if it were hot, the cloth would not fall on the ground; therefore, it is quite cool when the cloth is being hung. As soon as it is hung, the doors are closed, and the steam is turned upon the cloth, and the men and boys do not come into the stove until after the cloth is dry. When that is the case, a door is opened, the air is allowed to go through, and the stove is quite cool when they come to take down the cloth which is hung.

5842. As regards the employment of females, have you any hot place in which there are females working?—I have none, with the exception of the stove, which I have just explained.

5843. What is your opinion as to the healthy condition and appearance of your workpeople?—There are none more healthy; I will back them against anybody, both for health and appearance.

5844. Do you justify that opinion of yours by the length of time that they continue working?—Yes. I have said that we have only two men employed in the bleach-works now; one of them came in 1832, and the other in 1836; and in other places they are equally long-lived. The girls who come to us scarcely ever leave us, unless they get married, and then they must go; they have to look after the house.

5845. Is the occupation connected with bleaching an unhealthy one?—Not in the least; quite the reverse. In fact Dr. Black some time ago was making an inquiry among the bleachers with the view of seeing if any bleachers had died of consumption, and he told me that so far as his inquiry had been made, he had found not a single one; and in cases of consumption, the chlorine that we make use of is used for medicine, which shows that we are not working in any very unhealthy atmosphere.

5846. How are your rooms where these young people and women work ventilated?—The rooms are as well ventilated as this Committee-room, and no warmer. At the time that Mr. Tremenheere came into our works, he went into the finishing-room, which I consider is the hottest room we have; but it appears that he liked it very well, for he sat upon the table for an hour or more talking with the workpeople, and he made the remark, that no person could find any fault with the atmosphere of the room.

5847. Are your workpeople attracted by the shorter hours worked in the cotton factories in the neighbourhood?—They are not attracted to leave us by the shorter hours in the factory, but they are attracted to come from there to us; they would gladly do it if they had the opportunity.

5848. Do you know whether young women complained to Mr. Tremenheere about having sore ankles?—Yes; when Mr. Tremenheere came to the works, he called a number of people up to him, and asked them several questions. He

asked

asked them whether they would like to have a short time Bill, and work short hours. I only recollect that the girls did complain of sore feet; I was not aware till then that there was any such complaint, and I ordered them to wear slippers; they wore clogs when they were working. He pointed out a girl who was working with clogs. If any one did work in that way their feet must be sore, for they were working upon a boarded floor, and wood upon wood; I dare say it made their feet sore. But since they have worn slippers I have not heard a single complaint on that score, except from one of the girls who was determined that she would not leave off wearing clogs; and, before I came up here, upon making inquiry, I found that that girl still complained of sore feet, while the others, who wore slippers, found that they had been cured.

5849. When Mr. Tremenheere visited your works, did you give him every facility for visiting the workpeople?—Yes; when Mr. Tremenheere came to my works, I was not aware of his coming. I was in town sitting upon a bench of magistrates, and some one came and said that Mr. Tremenheere had come, and wished to go through my works; I said I would come as soon as I could come away, and then I went through the works with him. He asked me several questions, with respect to what I thought of the Bill; if there was any objection to it; but I would not give any reply to him, but I told him that he might speak to the workpeople. He did so. I did not interfere with him in the least, but I noticed in going through the works, while he was speaking to those girls and boys who complained of sore feet, that the girls were in a position in the room where I had never seen them before, and I have not the least doubt in my own mind that the workpeople knew when Mr. Tremenheere was coming; for those that he examined were close to the place where he stood in the room, and before that time, and since that time, I have never seen them there; their work was quite away. There was one boy whom Mr. Tremenheere examined who told him that his name was Thomas Spencer, I think, and that he worked all night for several nights in succession: thathe came the first in the morning, and that he was there the last in the evening; that he was a sorter of ropes for packing.

5850. The report says, "Thomas Spencer,—I am 12 years of age; I have been working here six months; my employment is sorting ropes for packing; I come at five o'clock in the morning, and am always here at that hour, and go home sometimes at nine, sometimes at ten." Have you any explanation to give of that?—Yes; he told Mr. Tremenheere that he came at some very early time in the morning, and he told him a great deal more than is in that book; he said that he was there several nights during the year, and that he had been there when other people were not. I knew that that could not well be the case, and I went to the foreman to ask him the question, and he said it was nothing of the sort; that the lad was there the least number of hours of anybody on the works. Upon that I called Mr. Tremenheere's attention to it, and he beckoned him back, and spoke to him, and the lad told quite a different tale; he hit him on the shoulder, and told him to go away. I said, "What is to do, Mr. Tremenheere?" he said, "Oh, he is telling me a pack of lies." I think that if Mr. Tremenheere put in one part he ought to put the rest in.

5851. There is no evidence of any discrepancy reported by Mr. Tremenheere?—I say that Mr. Tremenheere has not put in the evidence that he gave; I allowed Mr. Tremenheere to ask his own questions, and take down his answers, as he thought proper; but I did notice particularly about the lad; he said that he had worked all night for so many nights together, and that he had worked longer hours than anybody had worked; and when I was told it was just the opposite, I thought that Mr. Tremenheere should have taken some notice of it.

5852. So far as refers to Thomas Spencer, the report is quite incorrect?—So far as refers to the evidence of Thomas Spencer, the report is quite incorrect.

5853. Mr. *Davison.*] Are you satisfied that the workpeople knew that Mr. Tremenheere was coming?—I believe so from what I have stated; that when I went into the room I found that the people were placed where I had never seen them before. He placed himself first of all, and then the people were placed round him.

5854. You knew nothing of his arrival until the message was sent to you on the bench?—Nothing; I never heard of it till the message came to me when I was on the bench.

5855. Mr. *Cheetham.*] You have already stated to the Committee that there are intervals of time when the workpeople are not employed?—Yes.

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5856. What provision have you made for them in those intervals?—For the men, I have built a room for them to read the newspaper, if they think proper to do so, and also a place where they are allowed to smoke; we do not allow smoking in any other department than that, and we have built a room on purpose for them. As for the girls, I can see them when I go through the works sitting sewing; they make the most beautiful crochet work; and on Sunday, when I meet them, I have to look to see who they are; the men are quite as well dressed as I am.

5857. Is part of that dress that you see on Sunday, the result of their working when they are with you?—It is the result of their working during the times that they are waiting for work.

5858. Is that the result of the work not being continuous?—Yes; they have to wait for one another. I can give the Committee a statement of what we do; I did not hear that Mr. Hardcastle went through that. We first of all have to unload our cloth; then it is stitched together; every piece is stitched together; we then fire it, to burn off the nap; and we used to use men to turn the roller, but now they have nothing to do with it; that is done by machinery. They used to pull it off the roller after being singed; that is done by machinery; they used to take it into the works in barrows, that is done by machinery; the cloth is taken out of one room to the other by machinery. There is no manual labour at all in any of the different processes that have to be gone through in that way, until it comes to the mangles. The mangling is done by machinery; then it is hoisted up to the stoves; that is done by machinery. The cloth is hung by machinery, and then it comes to the callender. It has made the hours of labour more regular; and as to all this work that is done, we receive the cloth from Manchester, and bleach it, and finish it, and send it to Manchester again, for 9 *d.* for 40 yards.

5859. After going through all those various processes?—Now, if it were not for the quantity of cloth we have to do, we should lose money by every piece that we bleach.

5860. Is the fact of the labour not being continuous an argument against legislation?—Of course it is; if work comes in at a certain time, and we are slack of work, it is of very material importance that we should be able to get it done.

5861. The Committee have had some evidence as to the state of education among operative bleachers; what is the state of education among the people employed in your works?—I have made inquiries from every one, and I have papers to substantiate what I say; we employ 127 hands; there are 78 who can read and write very fairly; there are 36 that can read, but they cannot write; and there are 13 that can neither read nor write; making 127.

5862. Then out of 127 only 13 can neither read nor write?—Only 13 can neither read nor write.

5863. Have you any schools in the vicinity of your works?—The schools are not close; there is a school a quarter of a mile off. I have been the means of building two schools attached to churches, which they can go to; or, if they think proper, there are other schools which are taught by people for their own living, and which take the poorer classes if they pay so much a week. There are also the Sunday schools belonging to the several sects; there are plenty of schools if they will go to them, but I find that the parents do not pay that attention to their children that they ought to do; and I always find that a family which makes the greatest quantity of wages turns out children who are the worst educated.

5864. To whom do you ascribe these pushes which occur in your business?—To the merchants; they receive their orders from the merchants abroad, and the orders are that if they can get a certain quantity bleached by a certain time, they may send them in the white state. The merchant goes to the bleacher and says, "If you can get this done for me in such time you shall have it, if not, I must send it away in the grey." I find that there are considerably more goods going out now in the grey than there used to be; in fact, a particular friend of mine, who is in the business, told me not more than a fortnight ago that he was not bleaching now half the cloth that he used to do; that cloth is going abroad; they can bleach it as well abroad as we can. The bleaching machinery that I have just put up is machinery that was invented in Belgium; and the other day Mr. Kirk, in his evidence, said that he could not exactly point out the way in which the goods were bleached, but that he could tell them coming down; that is the way that I do mine. In France and in Belgium there

there was machinery before ever we had it with us, and even now, if our bleachers had got the machinery up, and if we were put under restrictions, which are proposed by the Bill, all advantage would be taken away from us.

5865. Referring to another point, John Waring, who gave evidence before this Committee, said that on one occasion he saw bleaching work going on in Mr. Cross's bleach-works on a Sunday; have you any remark to make about that?—Yes, John Waring said that in his evidence; and while I have been down in the country, I have taken the opportunity of seeing Mr. Cross, and asking if such was the case; and I have a letter from Mr. Cross, saying that he did bleach goods once on a Sunday, and only once, and that was a Government order for some goods that had to be bleached for the Crimea. I have his letter, if the Committee would like to hear it.

5866. Will you read it?—"With reference to the evidence of John Waring before the Committee on the above Bill, that he had known Mr. Cross work on a Sunday, I wish to make a few observations: it is correct that during the early period of the late war, an order from the Government was given to some Manchester merchants for shirtings for the soldiers then in the Crimea. These orders were obliged to be completed by a certain time. Indeed humanity would dictate that it was perfectly consistent to work on this occasion, when two men and six boys only were employed for five hours on the Sunday; but never on any other occasion has my establishment worked on a Sunday, and I regret that Waring should so far demean himself as to give such one-sided evidence. I have no doubt he knew perfectly well under what circumstances we worked on the Sunday. However, if he means to convey the idea that it is not an uncommon practice for my establishment to work on a Sunday, I have simply to deny the truth of his evidence."

5867. Mr. Robinson, a surgeon, of Bolton, who appeared before this Committee, said, that since machinery and chemical processes had been substituted for grass bleaching, the workpeople had not been so vigorous and healthy as before; have you any explanation to give with reference to that?—Mr. Robinson, in his evidence said, that he had been 34 years at Bolton, and that when he came to Bolton grass bleaching was in use. Now, I have a book here containing the evidence on a trial between a gentleman of the name of Tennant, who was a manufacturing chemist in Scotland, and a party in the neighbourhood of Bolton, who is a bleacher, as to the first introduction of chemical bleaching; this trial was in the year 1803, and from that time you may state that there was really no grass bleaching of any extent; therefore I consider that Mr. Robinson was decidedly mistaken in making the remark, that there was grass bleaching when he came to Bolton. My father was a bleacher, and I was born upon the same ground where I now reside, and I have seen bleaching all along, and I never recollect in my time any grass bleaching, with the exception perhaps of a piece or two pieces, which had been sent to the bleacher by his customer at Manchester for his own use, asking him to bleach them on the grass. Never, as a regular thing, was cloth bleached upon the grass in my recollection, which is considerably longer than Mr. Robinson's.

5868. He must have been speaking to a fact which occurred previous to his residence there?—There was nothing of the sort in the neighbourhood of Bolton in his time.

Veneris, 10° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Clark.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Packe.
Mr. Crook.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Kirk.	

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Henry William Ripley*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. W. Ripley.*
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5869. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee your occupation?—I am a dyer in Bradford, carrying on business there in connexion with my father as dyers of worsted goods, generally, comprising in that name mixtures of cotton and silk and wool.

5870. Will you state the number of the persons you employ?—The entire number of hands in our employment at the present moment is 491.

5871. Of those, how many are women, and how many boys?—Of those, a very small portion are women, only 13.

5872. How many boys?—Boys between 13 and 18 years of age, 75; I have taken those figures as being the ages fixed in Mr. Butt's Bill of last year.

5873. Have you any under 13?—No children are employed under 13, speaking generally; it is just possible that we have one or two, but, as a general rule, children coming to works similar to ours, come after they get too old for working in the factories; they are glad to escape from the factories to our description of work, which is of somewhat a lighter nature.

5874. Will you state to the Committee the nature of the employment in which those 75 boys are engaged?—To some extent those boys are divided over the entire works; of course, learning the various departments in the works, the older boys being employed in the dyeing operations, and the younger ones being employed in the finishing operations, gradually passing on from that to the heavier work, the finishing work being carried on after, of course, the dyeing operations are completed.

5875. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—Our hours of labour vary very materially with the season of the year; the work we have to perform coming from the merchants at various times, and uncertainly. In certain seasons of the year, our hands have very short time indeed; and again for some months, in the summer months especially, we work, to some extent, long hours; our rule, however, and I think it is a rule which applies generally over the trade, is not to work after nine o'clock in the evening. The arrangements of different concerns are various; some commence at six, and have an hour for breakfast; some commence at seven. Our practice is to commence at seven, and allowing no time till dinner; that varies at some seasons of the year. In the winter we commence at half-past seven, or even eight, give an hour at dinner time at twelve, and about four o'clock, when it is dark, frequently for weeks together, the concerns are closed altogether. Again, in summer time, or two or three months in spring; and again in autumn, when the merchants send in large quantities of goods to be dyed and finished, our operations will commence at six giving our men half an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner; and in the evening again, between four and five, they will take their half hour or three quarters, and go on till seven, eight or nine o'clock. The boys employed in those finishing operations have really, in the morning, little or nothing to do. They are playing about, waiting till some goods come up that have been dyed during the

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the morning. The operations are of this description, that if any one commences to put goods into the dyeing operations, of course you must carry on those operations, and bring the goods into a dry and proper state before you can leave them, otherwise the goods themselves would be entirely spoiled; that is, with reference to many colours at any rate; therefore the boys that are employed with us come on necessarily in the after part of the day particularly.

5876. Are the Committee to understand from that, that sometimes it happens that you do not receive the goods you are to dye until towards the middle of the day?—Oh no; in the busy seasons, of course we have large quantities of goods beforehand, when the pressure from the merchants is so great; but we do not take goods to-day and profess to deliver them again to-morrow.

5877. Do you ever receive the goods after the business has commenced, and then proceed with them as soon as you receive them?—Not with the same goods; of course it may happen that goods coming in in the middle of the day may pass through a certain preparatory process that day, but they do not get to the dyeing and finishing; goods would take four or five days to pass through the various operations, but our operations must be completed on the day they commence, and with reference to the dyeing particularly. When the goods are wet, they must be brought into the dry state again before they are left during that evening; and in proceeding to dye goods, the dyer cannot tell precisely to an hour when the operations will be completed. He passes his goods into the vessel, and if he does not match his pattern, he has to take it on to the winskill and put on more colouring matter to bring them up.

5878. What I wanted to know was, why the boys were loitering about in the morning, before they commence labour?—The goods are dried and completed from the previous day's processes in the evening, before the boys leave, and must necessarily be so; but if the boys were compelled to leave their work at a particular hour, say six o'clock, the men dyers would necessarily have to leave their work some two or three hours before.

5879. Is there any great heat required in any of the processes in your establishment?—We have no great heat which necessarily remains in the room; our drying operations are of course over hot cylinders; but they are in open places, with open roofs and open sides.

5880. Do you keep any note of the temperature?—No, we never have done so, particularly; our operations are not like those in a factory where you are compelled to keep up, to a certain extent, an even temperature; our men, if they are too hot, open the windows; if that is not sufficient, they pull the windows out of the frame entirely in the summer time, so as to get a thorough current, and they work in those currents continuously.

5881. Has your attention been directed to the subject-matter of this inquiry?—Yes, it was particularly directed to it during last year, and I think I had the honour of an interview with your Lordship and Mr. Butt, when, I think, we almost convinced you that so far from the work in our concern being onerous on the boys, it was comparatively easy, and I ventured to express an opinion, one held by all the parties with us, that there seemed to us, at any rate, not the same necessity for legislation in connection with works similar to ours, any more than there should be where children are employed in many other similar works which were, in fact, much more toilsome, and caused greater pressure on them than such works as our own. Perhaps it may be well to state to your Lordship the entire number of hands employed in the trade of the district.

5882. Do you mean in the dyeing trade generally, or in the particular class of goods that you dye?—In dyeing stuff goods; in fact, it embraces the West Riding, the towns of Leeds, Halifax, Bradford and Macclesfield, Bradford being the centre from which the great mass of those goods are sent, and to which they are returned after they are dyed.

5883. Will you hand in that paper?—Yes.—(*The following Table was here read.*)—"Statement of the total number of hands employed in the principal dye-houses engaged in the Bradford stuff trade, March 1856. Name of firm, and locality, Geo. Armitage & Co., Bradford: males above 18, 209; males under 18, 55; females, 8.—Samuel Smith, Bradford: males above 18, 201; under 18, 56; females, none.—Haigs & Billington, Neuldry: males above 18, 220; under 18, 80; females, 9.—James Reffilt, Leeds: males above 18, 196; under 18, 36; females, none.—Henry Holroyd, Leeds: males above 18, 114; under 18, 11;

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females, 2.—T. & R. Crossley & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 166; under 18, 19; females, none.—Jonathan Smith & Sons, Halifax: males above 18, 105; under 18, 22; females, 2.—John Lord & Co., Shilf: males above 18, 162; under 18, 25; females, none.—Henry Crossley & Co., Brighouse: males above 18, 43; under 18, 14; females, 2.—William Edliston & Co., Sowerby Bridge: males above 18, 56; under 18, 24; females, 11.—John Rettrill, Leeds: males above 18, 230; under 18, 48; females, 10.—Edward Ripley & Son, Bowling: males above 18, 391; under 18, 57; females, 12.—Joseph Holdsworth, Wakefield; males above 18, 180; under 18, 60; females, 10.—John Calvert and Co., Leeds: males above 18, 120; under 18, 28; females, none.—T. W. George & Co., Leeds: males above 18, 114; under 18, 35; females, 7.—Wainhouse & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 59; under 18, 4; females, none.—Thomas Parker, Leeds: males above 18, 27; under 18, 3; females, 2.—Murgatroyd & Buckley, Baildon: males above 18, 64; under 18, 24; females, 6.—J. M. Kirk, Halifax: males above 18, 280; under 18, 36; females, 12.—J. M. Kirk, Bowling: males above 18, 110; under 18, 27; females, 6.—Thomas Holmes & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 76; under 18, 9; females, 15.—Oates & Dent, Leeds: males above 18, 39; under 18, 9; females, 2.—Samuel Kirk (Stover), Leeds: males above 18, 12; under 18, 1; females, 1.—Total: males above 18, 3,174; males under 18, 683; females, 117." I may state that our own particular numbers vary some eight or ten from the document handed in; inasmuch as this was made out some months ago, and the numbers I have mentioned were taken only yesterday.

5884. Are the Committee to understand that you object to legislation with regard to your own trade?—We object, certainly, so far as we have the power of objecting.

5885. Are you aware whether those objections are shared by the majority of the firms to whom you refer?—When the Bill was before Parliament last Session several meetings were held of the entire body of the dyers comprised in this list, and very strong opinions were expressed at that time on the part of all, that such interference would be exceedingly mischievous, and would tend to cause annoyance and trouble, which was altogether unnecessary, and for which no cause had been made out in any way.

5886. Have complaints been made to you at any time on the part of your workpeople on account of the number of hours of work?—No; on the contrary, the men are thankful to work longer hours, if they can do so during the summer months, to make up for the necessarily short time that they have to work in the winter. Whatever legislation may take place, it cannot affect the question of the many months which these men have to work in the winter; of course I cannot say that if the thing became inevitable, it would be impossible to work, but it would work with injury to the workpeople, and with difficulty and trouble to the master; and would to some extent tend to bring us still more into competition with other countries, which are pressing hard enough upon us already in matters of this kind. I refer particularly to Germany and France, more particularly Germany; at present they are making rapid strides in the manufacture of goods of this description; and every bar that is brought to tell against us would, of course, give them help in those matters. There are now immense quantities of yarn sent from Bradford to the German market, and they make goods directly competing with the goods of the Bradford district; and they are sending those goods to America, and even back to our own market to compete with us.

5887. Have you any Table that will show the average number of hours in the course of a year that the people work in your establishment?—No, I have not; but speaking generally, the average number of hours, as I think I said jokingly to yourself and Mr. Butt last year, we should not have the slightest objection to a Bill for 10½ hours on an average; taking the whole year as a year, it would be found that our hands do not work ten hours and a half.

5888. Mr. *Kirk.*] Pray, are your workmen paid by the day or by the quantity of work that they do?—As a general rule, in our own establishment, we pay by the day; in one particular department we have paid by the piece, that is, the pressing, the ultimate process, we pay by the piece, and have done so for years; with that exception, our workmen are paid by the day; it is, I believe, not the case in all establishments; some carry the principle of piece-work further than we do; our work, is perhaps, of rather a finer description than most, and we find it policy to pay a little higher wages.

5889. What

5889. What do you call a day's work; how many hours?—We call 10 hours a day's work; we pay for 10 hours.

5890. Then we are to understand in the winter season that the men only work eight or nine hours?—They work on and off.

5891. And then their time is deducted?—Yes.

5892. And in the summer?—They are paid in proportion to the time they work, taking 10 hours as a day; for instance, in the winter, on a Saturday, especially for several years in our establishment, in order to give the men a little recreation, I have laid it down as a principle, that they shall not work after one o'clock, and they have the Saturday afternoon, under any circumstances, as a holiday, and I am glad to say, that it is gradually spreading; and I believe now, the majority of the dyers in our trade are carying out the same principle, and stopping at one or two o'clock on Saturday afternoons; but in the winter the men will prefer commencing on Saturday at half-past seven, and going on till one o'clock without stopping at all, and then they have done, and are free; in the summer they do in the same way go on till one o'clock, and then go away for the day again.

5893. Then in the winter season you would only make about 47 hours in the week upon that calculation?—Not 47 hours; our principle is to pay for the Saturday as a whole day.

5894. Though you have but six hours' labour?—Though we have but six hours' labour, we pay for the whole day on the Saturday; we consider that the boon that we give to our workpeople; and of course, whether it is winter or summer, on the Saturdays we do not work longer, and Saturday is called a day, and the remaining days are counted after the rate of 10 hours, and all the over-hours rated in the same proportion.

5895. Then your evidence is, that the tendency in your neighbourhood, without legislation, is to shorten the hours of labour?—The tendency is to give relief as far as possible to the workpeople, so that they shall have a reasonable amount of enjoyment; of course, as machinery has been gradually brought to bear upon our own trade, it facilitates the operations being carried on more quickly, and the more you can do that, the more power you have of producing the work that is necessitated to be done within a given period; the manufacturer can go on producing a certain class of goods for one, two or three months without having any very positive orders; the merchant does not buy from him, but he knows that the merchant will want a certain class of goods at certain times; but it is not so between us and the merchant; the merchant cannot tell until his trade comes on what particular class of goods he will have a demand for, and it is not until he gets the order from America or the Continent, or from his travellers in the country here, that he can tell what class of colours he will require from week to week; and from week to week, almost from day to day, I may say, the merchant sends out his orders for goods to be dyed to make up his wants; those goods are of course wanted, and sometimes in a very unreasonable time; but necessarily he presses upon the dyer large quantities of goods for two or three months during certain seasons, and then he becomes flat again; there are some months in which the dyer will be busy when engaged in one particular article, and then have very little to do comparatively.

5896. You say that you dry your goods over cylinders?—Yes.

5897. Filled with steam, I presume?—Yes.

5898. And those cylinders are in a room where there is air admitted from below?—The roof is perfectly open, with ventilators for carrying away the steam, and, in our own particular case, one side is entirely out and open to the room below, or a sort of yard with a complete current; the principle is to have as much ventilation as possible; there is no requirement in the operation for children working in any particularly heated atmosphere.

5899. Mr. *Davison.*] The process for business appears to be irregular?—The trade is necessarily irregular.

5900. Is it irregular in its stages?—Yes, and irregular in its quantity.

5901. I want to confine you now to the irregularity in its stages; I understand you to say, that legislation with respect to women and children would necessarily interfere with the labour of the adult?—The number of women in dying establishments is generally so small, and for an object which is used as it were for the general operations, that it is a matter of perfect indifference altogether, they are merely employed for the sewing of the goods; many of them are often above 20;

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they can scarcely be said to be strictly a part of the trade, they are employed for the sewing operations, but not absolutely in connexion with our trade; when you come to the next operation they are necessarily irregular, you take the goods after they have been sewn and stitched, and the operation is the steaming and crabbing; this operation you cannot tell when you commence with them to some extent when they will be finished; then you come to the dyeing operations, which have the greatest irregularity in them, and in which the greatest number of the youngest boys are employed; for instance with these goods, when the dyer commences to dye them a particular colour, when he has put them into the vessel, it may happen that in an hour he can get them completed, but when he comes to match his pattern with the goods, which he can do by a process of his own, by wringing a portion of a piece dry, he sees there is something wrong.

5902. What I want to know is this, does the irregularity in one process of the completion of that particular stage of manufacture lead to irregularity in a subsequent stage?—Precisely; these goods, with respect to which this irregularity of time takes place, have to pass through cleaning and finishing operations the same day, otherwise they are spoiled altogether, therefore you cannot tell at any hour when these operations will be completed; these boys are necessarily engaged in this final operation; and therefore if you have to send them away at a particular time, you must always be calculating beforehand, and sending your men away in the middle of that time.

5903. What effect will that have upon the next process if your previous one is delayed; if a delay takes place in No. 1, what effect will that have on No. 2?—It will be delayed; the boys are standing loitering about. I walk through the place occasionally, and find perhaps half a dozen of them lying on their backs on the goods asleep.

5904. So that in your opinion legislation with respect to a trade which is irregular in its stages and in its operations would be most injurious?—I think it would be most mischievous; that is my opinion.

5905. Mr. *Crook.*] Did you give evidence to Mr. Tremenheere, the Commissioner?—No; some evidence was given, I think, by some one at our works. Mr. Tremenheere has got Mr. Sutcliffe's name down; but Mr. Sutcliffe tells me that he never saw Mr. Tremenheere, and never gave him any evidence of any kind. I believe Mr. Tremenheere was at our works, and I believe the mistake arose in this way: he asked for me, and I was not there, and he might ask who was the manager, and the answer might be Mr. Sutcliffe, and he might have taken that as the name of the person he saw. I state that, because the person giving the evidence had no practical knowledge of the matter upon which he was giving evidence, and I believe he made some mistakes.

5906. You say that you are indifferent about the women you employ?—Yes, it is quite a matter of indifference.

5907. You have no objection to their being regulated by law?—If there was any regulation about women only, we should just clear them off the ground, and have a machine that would do all the work which they do; the moment there was any interference we should send them away. I pledge myself now, that the moment any legislative interference takes place with reference to women, we shall not have one on the premises; and that will be considered a hardship, no doubt.

5908. Are you working these 75 boys much after six o'clock at present?—Yes, we are.

5909. Did you do so last week?—Last week, I have no doubt, they worked at hours varying to seven, eight and half-past eight; I speak from our general principle; I have no doubt it was the case; we happen just now to be commencing to be busy. For the last six weeks or two months, during May and June, these boys did not work more than three or four days a week. We are now commencing to be busy again, and I hope, until towards the end of September, they will be able to work until seven, eight or nine o'clock, as the case may be from time to time.

5910. The party that gave this evidence stated that your busy season may possibly extend to eight weeks during the summer season, and sometimes a little more; is that pretty correct?—Yes; it varies very much; our busy season commenced about a fortnight or three weeks ago; it has been particularly late this year; we have been particularly quiet for some months, so that I hope we shall continue to be busy now for three months.

5911. Would you say that this reply was incorrect—"As there is to be no interference with adult male labour on the part of the dyeing process, it can be gone on with by the men"?—No; that is not correct.

5912. That was stated by some person in your employ, was it not?—Yes; by some person who had no practical acquaintance with the thing.

5913. You say that it is not correct?—I say it is not correct.

5914. You are dyers of worsted stuffs?—Yes; stuff goods, comprising the mixtures of cotton, silk and wool.

5915. Your business does not differ very materially from that of Mr. Armitage, I suppose?—No, it does not; it is pretty much of the same general character.

5916. This is evidence with respect to his place—"Nevertheless, if all the trade be placed upon an equality, it will be better for those who, like myself, do not employ so large a portion of young labour;" do you agree with that?—Individually, if we were to have legislative interference in this way, always presuming that we can still compete with our foreign competitors; to me it would be an individual benefit, I have no doubt, because I have already the power and the capital, and every thing, so that I could extend my works if it became necessary, so as to meet that difficulty; but it is upon the broad principle that I think legislative interference at all with labour of this character is uncalled for, that I personally object to it.

5917. Do you mean to give the Committee an impression that it is more upon theoretic than practical grounds that you object to it?—No, I object upon practical grounds; I have already given my reasons practically; but I say individually, supposing we had legislative interference in this matter, I should possibly derive some benefit in being able to extend my concern, having capital and otherwise at my command, which would meet the difficulty, if it became absolutely necessary to do so, but I think that the evil to these children would be infinitely greater than to me in this matter.

5918. What reason have you for thinking so?—We should necessarily be compelled to supersede the labour of these children, to a great extent, by machinery; there are the means of doing so; it merely requires the pressure to be brought upon us to do so, to enable us to bring various mechanical appliances to work to do away with the labour of these children, and to meet the competition that would be necessarily brought to bear upon us.

5919. You do not see any evidence in the factory system of the workpeople suffering in consequence of regulated hours, do you?—With reference to the factory system, I think you must draw a broad line of distinction between those and works similar to ours; in the factories it is of course notorious that they employ very young children, whereas we take the children after they have done with the factories. I merely give my own views upon the matter. It seems to me that if you carried legislation at all beyond its present point, you should make it imperative that no children, if you like, under 18, should be employed in any labour whatever; there is no more reason why such a trade as ours should be put under legislative interference than any other.

5920. Are you aware that the same argument was supposed to hold good before the factory law was passed?—That may be; but it may have been false then, and good now.

5921. You speak of the tendency to give relief; do you think that you would attempt to pass a Bill which should include all classes?—No; if you ask me my opinion, I think it is no part of the duty of Parliament at all to interfere in such matters; I think a very great case of hardship and injustice should be made out before Parliament interferes at all in matters of this kind.

5922. In judging of the hardship of the case, have you seen a copy of the evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere with regard to the evils of excessive employment of labour?—Last year, do you mean?

5923. Last year but one, I think it was?—In the Yorkshire district?

5924. Not in the Yorkshire district, but every part of the country?—Yes, I did see it; I believe I have a copy of it, which I turned over last year at the time the Bill was before the House.

5925. Did it not strike you from that, that there were great evils in the excessive employment of women and children?—Not such an evil, I think, as to call for legislative interference.

5926. No part of it?—No, it did not strike me so; of course you might rake up evidence in abundance in any town in the kingdom.

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5927. We have this evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere, from Mr. Kirk's, of Halifax, who at that time employed 200 persons. He says, "We should have no difficulty if the hours for women and boys were restricted, in putting on a few more hands, which would enable us to keep on with the men;" do you think that is not a practical evil?—No, I think not; and I think if Mr. Kirk had thoroughly understood the case put, he would hardly have said so; in the very nature of the thing it is impossible.

5928. How long does your busy season extend?—It varies somewhat.

5929. Can you give us an average of years?—We have two busy seasons often; we have a short spring season, and a longer autumn season, as a general rule.

5930. Will you be kind enough to state the number of weeks in a year upon the average?—For some six or eight weeks in the spring there is generally a considerable push, and again in the autumn, from about this period to the end of August or September, varying according to the circumstances; perhaps it may be more distinctly put by stating that upon the average of years there are three or four months when we are exceedingly quiet.

5931. I merely asked you to give me an idea of the number of weeks that you worked after six o'clock at night?—We hope to work from this time to the end of next month, or possibly into September, after six o'clock at night; for eight or twelve weeks, say.

5932. For eight or twelve weeks in the year?—Yes; some of those weeks we should work very little over six o'clock, and some weeks again we are working two or three hours over six, varying according to the amount of work which has to be done in that particular week, and which, in point of fact, must be done.

5933. Then to get the same quantity of work done, what additional number of boys would you require during that time?—The additional number would not do it at all without additional machinery; it would scarcely be a question of additional number.

5934. Nor a question of additional boys to do the work?—Nor a question of additional boys; the boys are divided over the entire works more or less, the younger ones being employed in the finishing department, where there are a portion of men, and to a certain number of men there is a certain proportion of boys; the entire works are at present adapted the one portion to the other for ordinary operations; you cannot increase the finishing department, either in its operations or machinery, without increasing the entire works, and then you come back to the point from which we started, that at a time of push you have the necessary overworking, and that is not precisely the point; you have the dying operations carried on during certain hours of the day, and if you were to stop those boys in the finishing at six o'clock at night, you must stop the dyeing at two or three in the afternoon. These goods commenced to be operated upon in the dyeing must be passed through the cleaning process, and be left in a dry state, otherwise the goods will all be spoilt; if you send the boys away at six o'clock, you must stop the dyeing at two or three, as we do upon a Saturday, punctually; we stop our men in some departments even at 11 o'clock, in order to bring the goods in a dry state at one o'clock, or half-past, although the boys go on until two or three sometimes on the Saturday afternoon, to dry the goods, but they have ample time in the morning; they are, in fact, lolling about for hours, sometimes, waiting for the goods.

5935. Mr. *Wise.*] To carry on this process successfully, you are obliged to have continuous operations?—Yes, you must carry the operations through when you commence with them; the operation of dyeing is of an uncertain character, you cannot tell at any hour when it will come up to the colour which is to be produced; they vary according to circumstances, which are sometimes unaccountable; sometimes you produce in an hour, what will at other times take two, in consequence of some little matter in the operation which the man himself cannot account for.

5936. Mr. *Crook.*] Then you think the statement of the person in your establishment was not correct, that as there was to be no interference with adult male labour, the dyeing process could be gone on with by the men?—In other departments they could not do the work any more than you or I could; I confess I should be quite incapable of doing it; a man cannot do the work of these boys, it is impossible; even men who are on the spot, and have been brought up to the trade, cannot do it.

5937. Mr. *Wise.*] There is a certain amount of skilled labour required for it in fact?—Yes, it is a manual operation performed by their hands; it is folding the goods principally that these boys are engaged in; in the heavier operations the boys of 16 or 17 are working and learning the trade; the younger boys of 13 or 14 begin with the lighter operations; I am not aware that we have any boys under 13, and they pass on to the heavier work gradually until they become men, and get into the general work.

5938. Mr. *Turner.*] You say that Mr. Sutcliffe, who was said to be examined by Mr. Tremenheere, never was in fact examined by him at all?—Mr. Sutcliffe never saw Mr. Tremenheere at all.

5939. Then you conceive that it was a mistake, some one else being examined, and Mr. Tremenheere considering he was examining Mr. Sutcliffe?—Mr. Tremenheere may of course have made the mistake in that way; the question was put by me to Mr. Sutcliffe what he had been about to give such evidence, and he said that he had never given it, and had never seen Mr. Tremenheere; and then I found who the person was that he had seen; he had asked if he could see me, and was told "no;" he then asked who was the general manager, and was told Mr. Sutcliffe, and I suppose he took that to be the name of the person.

5940. You would have been the proper person, if present; and in your absence Mr. Sutcliffe would have been the proper person to examine?—Mr. Sutcliffe more properly than myself.

5941. Can you give us the name of the person who was examined?—Mr. Murgatroyd, who had the management of our chemical works.

5942. You have read the examination as given by Mr. Tremenheere, was he competent to describe your works?—No; Mr. Sutcliffe ought to have been the person to give the answers to Mr. Tremenheere.

5943. But has Mr. Murgatroyd given them incorrectly?—He has given them to the best of his own knowledge, I dare say; but he was not practically acquainted with the working of that department.

5944. I think you told us that if there was any legislative interference, one of the first effects, as far as you are concerned, would be to clear your works of the women?—Unquestionably, so far as the women are concerned; if they were included in any Bill, we should not keep them a day.

5945. Is there abundant occupation for women in your district?—On the contrary, the women are very thankful to get this work. We are in fact continuing employing them to some extent where we might employ machinery for stitching and sewing the goods together, so long as the balance of cost is not very materially against us; we do that rather than extend our machinery.

5946. It would be an evil to throw women out of employ in your district?—I think it would be a great evil to restrict them.

5947. Are the women you employ chiefly married or single?—I think single, generally; in fact, they are daughters of our own workmen, as a general rule, no doubt, for we object to have women about who are strangers; inasmuch as if they have connexions on the premises they can be looked after and watched, and we can see that there is no mischief going on.

5948. You consider that limiting the hours of labour in the dye-works would rather be attended with some advantage to capitalists, who could extend their works, and make arrangements to extend their operations, so as to meet the push of work in shorter hours?—That might be the tendency.

5949. But if it would be an advantage to capitalists and men of extensive property, perhaps it would be a disadvantage to those who had but limited means?—It strikes me decidedly so; it would place greater difficulties in the way of men of small means rising in the world; they would not have the same means of doing so.

5950. It is not exactly a comparison with factory owners, but there are many small proprietors of works, are there not?—There are many small works in addition to those on the list I have given in, and there are some now rising.

5951. From small beginnings?—Yes.

5952. Is it desirable to centralize work in that way; to knock down the small men, and set up the larger ones?—In my opinion it is better to give all a chance; and I think that legislative interference would rather have a tendency to check that.

5953. Mr. *Packe.*] You have mentioned the name of Mr. Murgatroyd; do you believe that he was examined by Mr. Tremenheere?—I believe he was.

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5954. Is it impossible that Mr. Wilson Sutcliffe's name may have been placed to this evidence instead of that of Mr. Murgatroyd?—When I saw the evidence which had been printed, I said to Mr. Sutcliffe, "How was it that you gave such evidence?" And he replied, that it was not his evidence; that he was not there at all. I put the question to Mr. Murgatroyd; and he replied that Mr. Tremenheere had asked if I was in; that he told him I was not; that he then asked who was the general manager, and that he replied, "Mr. Sutcliffe;" and I have no doubt that was how the mistake arose; that he took him to be Mr. Sutcliffe.

5955. Then this evidence ought to have been under the name of Murgatroyd instead of Sutcliffe?—Yes.

5956. Do you dispute as correct any of this evidence as it is given by Mr. Tremenheere in his report?—Yes; it is a mistake, in my opinion, as to the working of the thing.

5957. I think you say that you employ about 75 boys under 18 years of age?—Yes; about 75.

5958. Is that less than you employed in 1855?—I do not think it would vary very materially.

5959. Had you a larger number of boys at that time?—I really do not know.

5960. It is stated in the evidence that you employed 100 boys?—The discrepancy there would be accounted for in this way—that was taken as the number of boys under 21 years of age.

5961. It is stated here as "under 18?"—Mr. Murgatroyd merely gave it from recollection; he did not refer to books at all; he merely gave the numbers from his impression, without counting them in any way; I have given the numbers to-day from our books of last autumn, and again from our books of yesterday.

5962. Can you tell the Committee what is the age of the youngest of the boys that you employ?—About 13; we have a few boys just about 13.

5963. Have you none younger than 13?—No, I am not aware of any; there may be one or two, but we profess to take the boys on when they come from the factories at 13; that is our general rule; indeed we cannot do with boys materially under 14 or 15.

5964. Do you agree with this part of the evidence, that when you work overhours, you begin at five or six in the morning and go on until eight or nine at night, and sometimes a little longer; is that correct?—Of course, putting it very generally, you might say that it was correct; but it is not strictly correct; we never begin at five now; our earliest time is six; the other part is correct; we do go on till seven, or eight or nine; our general principle is not to work after nine. I do not say that never, under any circumstances, do we work half an hour or an hour after that; but it is only on special occasions, it is not our general rule; our general rule is not to work after nine.

5965. Do they ever work as late as 11?—No.

5966. Or 10?—Occasionally, I will not say it may not be so; I do not say it is not possible.

5967. Does that continue for any length of time?—No, certainly not; we continue till seven, eight, or nine o'clock for two or three months in the autumn.

5968. Does the work continue as late as 10 o'clock?—No, not as late as 10; our principle is, that nine o'clock is late enough for the operations to cease, and all our calculations are based upon that; but in the very nature of the operations it is possible that on some particular day, a large quantity of goods may occasionally go wrong in the dyeing work, and those goods would be an hour or an hour and a half later in the cleaning operation, and on such an occasion as that, we may go on till 10 o'clock; I will not say that they have not done so; but as a general rule, our time is nine o'clock at the latest.

5969. I think I understood you to say, that your objection to legislation was not so much from individual inconvenience as upon principle?—It would be a great individual inconvenience, and very undesirable, but I have a very strong feeling against it upon principle.

5970. But did I not understand you to say that it might even be rather more convenient as extending your operations, that there should be some limitation of these hours?—No, I think it would not be more convenient; it would be decidedly inconvenient; what I said, or what I intended to say at all events, was, that it would tend to restrict the facilities which smaller concerns have now for rising in the world, and that it would give any concern which had capital at its command

command power to extend itself by means of machinery, so as to meet the difficulty, if it was imperative that it should be done.

5971. It would give an advantage to large capitalists over small ones?—I think so, most decidedly; that is my opinion.

5972. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Therefore it would be advantageous to the large capitalists?—No; it does not at all follow that it would be advantageous to them; but it would give them an advantage over the small ones, decidedly.

5973. I understood you to say, that, so far as you were concerned, legislation would be advantageous?—As between ourselves and the smaller concerns, but not advantageous in itself by any means.

5974. Then, in fact, it would only get rid of the smaller men without doing any good to you?—It would give them greater difficulties in rising, that is my opinion.

5975. Mr. *Turner.*] It would tend to throw the small capitalists out of work in the same way that it would tend to throw the women out of work, would it not?—I think that all this kind of legislation has that tendency.

5976. Mr. *Crook.*] Perhaps you will describe to the Committee the difference there would be under the circumstances?—The difference would be very great, inasmuch as the merchant has to depend entirely upon his dyer for producing a certain quantity of goods in a given time; small capitalists could not do the work in that given time, therefore the orders would necessarily go to the large man.

5977. Assuming both to be upon the same footing as to time, that they cannot employ women and children after six o'clock, in what way would the law make any difference between them; because the proportion of work with tradespeople is generally in proportion to their convenience, is it not?—It is so to some extent, no doubt; still the smaller concerns make a little more push than the larger ones do, and I think they are very fairly entitled to do it, in order to help themselves a little more. In very small concerns the parties even work themselves; some of the very small concerns in connexion with our own trade, for instance, take the finishers who have not got to dyeing. There are two or three of our own workmen, very intelligent, steady men, who have commenced the operation of finishing, and are carrying on small concerns in connexion with their own families, in fact. Now, if you restrict these men to any particular hours of labour, I think you are committing a great hardship upon them, and are taking it out of their power, in fact, to raise themselves in the world. I have two cases in particular in my eye now; cases of two very worthy, respectable men, whom I should be glad to see get on and rise in the world; but I think that if you put Parliamentary restriction upon the hours they are to work, and their families, you will do them a great injury. They have three or four boys of their own, and they are all thankful to work as they can get it.

5978. Mr. *Baxter.*] How many women do you employ in your establishment?—About a dozen.

5979. And I understand you to say, that if there was to be any legislation affecting their hours of labour, you would dispense with their services altogether?—If there is to be any legislation affecting women only, without reference to children; of course if it also applied to children under 18, it might be a question.

5980. Do you find the labour of these women remunerative to yourself; I suppose you do, as you employ them?—They are merely employed in the stitching, stitching the goods endways together, which could be carried out in time by means of machinery, if it became a matter of importance.

5981. Then that species of labour which the women are employed upon could be done by machinery?—It could.

5982. And as cheaply?—Yes, possibly rather cheaper; but as I remarked before, our own workpeople have daughters, and they are generally employed in this way, and we do not like to make a change which would throw them out of employment, or send them to seek work in the factories, which is a much more objectionable thing; our numbers are very limited, but the women consider it rather a higher thing than being employed in the factories.

5983. Are there many establishments of the same description as yours at Bradford?—There are three or four: three other large concerns.

5984. As large as yours?—No, not as large as ours, ours is the largest concern, perhaps, in the trade.

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5985. Mr. *Packe.*] Are any of the females in your establishment under 18 years of age?—It is possible there may be two or three; they are girls, varying from 15 to 20 or 25.

5986. Are there none under 15?—No, I should think there are none so young as 15, they could not do the work which we require of them.

5987. *Chairman.*] At present they are not working at all against machinery?—No.

5988. It is more in the nature of domestic labour?—There is no machinery at all employed in carrying on the work; we did formerly do it by means of boys, but it seemed so much more natural for women to stitch than boys, that we have gradually got into the way of employing women.

5989. You yourself were absent when Mr. Tremenheere called?—Yes.

5990. And Mr. Sutcliffe was also absent?—Yes; he did not happen to be present.

5991. In the absence of yourself and Mr. Sutcliffe, who was the natural person to be asked for?—They ought to have said to Mr. Tremenheere that I was not there, and that Mr. Sutcliffe was not there, and that if he could make an appointment, one or the other of us would meet him.

5992. But in your absence, and that of Mr. Sutcliffe, who would be left in charge to speak?—Each department works itself; there are men over each department; but there was no man who was competent to give an opinion as to the working of the whole matter.

5993. Supposing that I or anybody else had come for the purpose of asking leave to see your works, and found you and Mr. Sutcliffe absent?—You would have been refused.

5994. Who would have given the refusal?—The clerk in the office would have said that I was not there, and Mr. Sutcliffe was not there, and he could not have given leave under any circumstances.

5995. You regard yourself and Mr. Sutcliffe as the only persons who could give proper evidence?—Yes.

5996. But it seems that in this instance, whoever gave the answer to Mr. Tremenheere, pointed out Mr. Murgatroyd?—Yes; Mr. Murgatroyd had the management of the chemical works, and to some extent knew the working of the concern.

5997. The Committee are not to understand that you make it a matter of complaint against Mr. Tremenheere?—Oh, no, not in the least; they would naturally turn to Mr. Murgatroyd, I dare say, as being the next likely person to give an opinion to Mr. Tremenheere on the matter.

5998. All the boys you employ you take from the factory at the age of 13?—Yes; they come from the factories to us, in fact, when they get too old or too big for the factories; they are glad to get into our work if they can do so, as being work of rather a less close and confined character.

5999. All those boys of course have gone through whatever education is provided for them under the educational clauses of the Factory Act?—Yes, they have done so; unless a boy has some tact for carrying on his education by means of Mechanics' Institutes, or something of that kind, his education has practically ceased from that time.

6000. Mr. *Clark.*] As regards masters, you seem to think that legislation would be injurious to their interests; would you consider it injurious to the interest of the employed?—I think it would have an injurious effect on the employed necessarily; these boys are now getting something like an average weekly wages throughout the year; it would not improve their position one iota for the many months when they only have half time; they would have the entire deduction of their overtime, which they look forward to with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure.

6001. Have the employed expressed any wish on the subject?—I do not think the matter has been sufficiently brought before the workpeople themselves for them to do so.

6002. Then you can form no opinion what their feeling is on the subject?—I venture to give a very decided opinion as to their own feeling, that one and all would protest and object.

6003. In the event of legislation, would you prefer having the average of the working hours by the week, say 60 or 70 hours, or would you prefer an average of 10 hours a day?—I really have no opinion upon the point. I think the matter would

would throw the whole thing into such a completely different state, that we should meet the thing in all possible ways, so as to do away with anything like inspection or interference. My opinion would be, that if we could by any possible means bring machinery into operation, so as not to have a boy or woman on the premises, so as to come within the meaning of the Act, whatever it might be, I should strain every possible nerve to do so, so as to be rid of the thing; whether that would be possible, would be a question of some little time.

6004. Then you would direct all your energies to the removal of women and boys from your works?—Yes; the question was raised when Mr. Butt brought in his Bill last year to do away with the labour of these boys in one or two departments, and when a little alarm was felt, should that Bill pass, some of our foreman said we can do the work they do althogether by machinery, and the tendency would be to supersede labour altogether; the greater difficulty would not be the superseding the labour, but the bringing up of boys, so as to carry on the labour of men.

6005. Mr. *Crook.*] Do you think there would be any difficulty in boys getting work, supposing they had the misfortune to be rejected from your work?—I think there would be great difficulty.

6006. In Bradford, do you mean?—Yes, in Bradford; at any rate, if you carried out the principle at all in connexion with the works of a similar nature.

6007. You are aware that it is carried out in the factories at Bradford, that boys under 18 cannot be employed after six o'clock?—Yes, I am aware of that; but our operations are as dissimilar from those of a factory as possible. In a factory everything can be stopped and left with perfect safety, and commenced again next day; not so with us, it would be utterly impossible.

6008. Do you suppose that the factory masters looked as complacently upon the Factory Act as you do now; are you not aware that some of them would prefer working 16 hours a day?—Possibly.

6009. What is your fear of inspection; have you ever seen an inspector?—Oh, yes, often.

6010. Is there anything to make inspectors so objectionable at your works?—I object to the principle altogether; I think Parliament has no right to interfere.

6011. Then it is not a personal objection to the inspectors?—No; I have the pleasure of the acquaintance of several of those gentlemen, and I respect them; it is the principle I object to.

6012. Had this Mr. Murgatroyd you speak of, had the oversight of most of your workpeople?—No, he had not.

6013. Had he no oversight of any of them?—I would not say of none of them, but he had not of most of them; since that evidence was taken he has changed his position materially, and has gone more practically into certain departments; at that time he had the management of our chemical works, and of the chemical works alone.

6014. And in the chemical works, strictly speaking, he had very little to do with what he was speaking about there?—He had little or nothing to do with what he was speaking about there.

6015. It was not his department at all to attend to the dye-works?—I would not say not at all, but he had not the management of the practical working of the finishing, he had never been in the finishing department at all; the dyeing he had a knowledge of.

6016. Were you correct when you described him as manager of the dyeing department?—I do not think I did.

6017. That was your first description of him?—I think not; I intended to say the chemical department; at any rate I must not be understood to say that he had not to some extent the management of the dyeing department; what I mean is this, that he had never followed out the entire work so as to have a knowledge of the finishing, in the way that Mr. Sutcliffe had; I say this in order that I may not be misunderstood, although there is nothing so very material in the evidence that he gives.

6018. I presume that he is an intelligent and respectable man?—Yes, he is so.

6019. And capable of giving an opinion on such a point?—Yes, quite so.

6020. *Chairman.*] Is the evidence that you have given, given on behalf of those who are employed in the same line of business as yourself?—Yes, and also on behalf of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, which has deputed me to come here;

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here; two other gentlemen were appointed to accompany me, but they found it excessively inconvenient to do so, and they also had a strong opinion that the evidence of one person was quite sufficient to settle the matter as to legislation upon this subject; but the stuff merchants, I believe, at one time, with reference to warehouses, were proposed to be included in this Bill, and Mr. Mitchell was nominated to be here on their behalf. I am perfectly at home in the warehouses of the town of Bradford, and I am quite able to give an opinion as to the employment of the boys there.

6021. Will you be good enough to give the Committee the benefit of your experience and knowledge as it respects the warehouses in the town of Bradford?—The stuff warehouses in Bradford employ a number of boys who are growing up in their various departments, and their hours of labour vary according to the amount of business that is going on from time to time during the year, that business, of course, being somewhat corresponding in point of amount with the times when the dyers are busiest. The merchants, however, employ very few boys, and they do no finishing whatever; the only operation which they carry on is that of making up the goods, folding the goods and putting them in paper, and packing them after they are received from the dyers and finishers; no finishing operation is carried on by any of the merchants in the stuff trade.

6022. With respect to the hours at which these establishments are open, and the labour performed in them, can you tell the Committee what they are?—The hours of labour in the warehouses vary very materially; they do not, as a general rule, commence quite so early as the dyers and finishers; they are not so particular as to their times; their apprentices have certain times fixed, and they work in accordance with the work they have in hand; no machinery, of course, is employed in these warehouses, except for the purpose of folding the goods; some of them employ a small steam-engine, which carries on this operation, but altogether the number of boys employed in the warehouses generally is so small, and the work they have to perform so trivial, that I apprehend they scarcely thought it necessary to give any evidence upon the matter. They considered it so completely out of the question that it should ever be thought of in any future Bill, it was so completely decided last year that they were to be left out, that they did not think it necessary to trouble themselves, I believe; that is really the truth of the matter.

6023. Will you be good enough to look at this Bill, and see if these establishments are included in it (*a paper was handed to the Witness*)?—This is the second Bill of last year; they are not included here. The third clause here makes the distinction as to the operation of packing being carried on in connexion with any bleaching concern, but they were included in the first Bill of last year. The stuff dyers are in reality included in this Bill, although I believe it was not intended that they should have been so; I have two notes from Mr. Butt, in which he said that he would put in another clause, so as to put out of the question our being included, but it never got to that point.

Mercurii, 21° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Butt.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cheetham.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Crook.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dalgleish.	

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Stephen Blair, Esq., further Examined.

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6024. Mr. *Cheetham.*] HAVE you anything to say to the Committee with reference to your previous examination?—The last subject which I was speaking of was with reference to the evidence of Mr. Robinson, with regard to the time at which field bleaching was done away with; I may add that I believe there is one bleacher in the neighbourhood of Bolton, Mr. Slater, of Dunscar, who bleached a sort of cloth, made of cotton and linen, who occasionally bleached in the fields. The cotton is bleached by a chemical process, but the linen is obliged to be bleached in the open air. I have a letter from Mr. Slater, in which he says that it was given up in 1815 or 1813.

6025. Was not that evidence given in reference to the statement made by Mr. Robinson, that the workpeople had not been so vigorous and healthy since grass bleaching had been done away with?—Yes; Mr. Robinson said that it was 34 years since he came to Bolton; and that at that time bleaching of cloth upon the grass was in practice; and my remark went to show that long before that time cloth was bleached by chemical process.

6026. Mr. *Butt.*] Is there anything in the nature of linen which prevents it from being bleached by chemical process?—There is; the linen will not admit of the use of drugs; you cannot bleach it by chemical process; it is obliged to be bleached on the grass.

6027. Is there not a chemical process applied to linen?—The chemical process is from the air, as it lies upon the grass. Mr. Kirk would be able to explain better than I can, why it is that we cannot use the chemical process (what we call the chemicals and the sours), in bleaching linen cloth.

6028. Mr. *Turner.*] The Committee have learnt from Mr. Kirk, that they do bleach in the open air?—Yes, that is linen bleaching; but since 1813, as Mr. Slater told me, they have not bleached goods upon the grass in the neighbourhood of Bolton.

6029. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Henry Waring, who was examined before this Committee, stated that there would be no difficulty in leaving the goods for 20 or 24 hours after any process of bleaching had taken place; and said that such a thing is always done at certain seasons of the year, such as Christmas and Whitsuntide, when the works are always suspended; can you explain that?—At Christmas and Whitsuntide the workpeople always have holidays; and we prepare our goods for those holidays, by either keeping them in the grey, or by putting them into such a state that they will not be damaged by being left in that state; we are aware that those times are coming, and we prepare accordingly; the men get through as much work as they can, and when the goods are bleached, and in the white, it is all right.

6030–2. Then the preparation which you have to make for these occasions is an exceptional thing, and not what you do regularly?—We could not do it regularly; because, if we were to leave off at the end of each day, the cloth might be in the process of boiling, or it might be in the process of stewing, or of chemicaling,

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or of souring; and if it were left in that state it might rot. And not merely that, but there is a certain red heading made by the manufacturer across the piece, and, if this heading is spoilt, the manufacturer will at once deduct 1 *s.* for the spoilt heading, and perhaps return the goods to us when we only charge 9 *d.* for bleaching the piece. If it is left in the chemical process, it will discharge the heading; and when the headings are discharged it takes 1 *s.* per piece off the value of the cloth.

6033. It has also been stated to this Committee that if the workpeople refuse to work these long hours they would be dismissed; is that the fact?—There has never been anything of that sort with us. Our men are always very willing to work, because they know that, being paid by the piece, and not by the day, the more work they get through the more money they have; and on looking over the wages that I have paid during the last 12 months, I find that the men have averaged 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, and the women about 1 *s.* 9 *d.* or 1 *s.* 10 *d.* a day.

6034. When any of your workpeople leave you, are you in the habit of giving them notes of dismissal which they term "quittance papers"?—Yes, we generally give them "quittance papers" when they leave us.

6035. Have any of those "quittance papers" which have been given to the workpeople who have been dismissed by you, been so marked as to prevent their employment in other establishments?—It was stated by Henry Waring, in giving evidence before this Committee, that, at two or three of the works, the papers had a private mark upon them which was put on by the bleachers; and that when the workpeople offered these "quittance papers," the master bleachers said, "We cannot employ you, though you have 'quittance papers' from your last employers." There never was any case of that sort since 1829 (I think it was 1829), when the operatives formed themselves into a club. I had a man with me who would not enter into that club; and the workpeople came to me, and told me that he would not enter into their club, and called upon me to discharge him. I said, "I shall not discharge him for not entering into your club;" upon which they turned out. Then I called the bleachers together, and told them what had taken place. I said, "It will not do for the men to talk in this manner to us; we must put a stop to it. If you will not employ any of my hands that have turned out, I will stand a turn out, and will get fresh hands." I sent the names of those who had been in my employment to the master bleachers; and of course if any of those people gave their "quittance papers" to a master bleacher, it was at once known that they were some of my hands who had turned out from my works, and he would not employ them. There was never any case but that one in which anything of the sort was said; and there was no private mark upon the "quittance paper" in that case. The masters knew who those people were, and whom they had worked for.

6036. Henry Waring also told this Committee that 40 years ago, when they worked in the field they began at seven in the morning and left off at six in the evening, except on Saturday, when they gave over at four; will you explain that to the committee?—I have stated just now that it was above 40 years since grass bleaching was given up. My father was the first to put his men upon piece-work. They used to be paid by the day, and I dare say that what he has stated with regard to the time at which they came in the morning, and the time at which they left off at night upon grass bleaching, may be correct; but that is done with now. It is above 40 years, I think, since the people were put on piece-work.

6037. The same witness has also stated that children as young as nine or ten years of age were employed in the bleach works; is that correct?—There used to be young children employed, but not so young as that, in the bleach works. But with respect to that department now, we do everything by machinery; and we do not employ any people at all now where they used to be employed; it is all done by machinery. And I think that most of the bleachers in the neighbourhood will put up machinery on purpose to do away with it. Therefore, those who are employed in those departments of labour will lose their employment through the machinery.

6038. Has the extension of machinery also affected the employment of adult labour?—It has affected adult labour; formerly we had 43 hands in our bleaching department, where we bleached the cloth, who were chiefly adults at that time; now we have 19, and we have only two adults among them. There are 17 boys and two men.

6039. Has

6039. Has the introduction of this improved machinery had any effect upon John Waring's own position?—He said that he had gone round to several bleach-works to ask for employment, and had been refused. He never called upon us to ask for employment; but if he had done so, we should have not been able to give him the employment he wanted. He had been brought up as a crofter, and his work is now done by machinery, and a great many people have been thrown out of employment by the introduction of that machinery. He thought that it was because he was an agitator that he could not get employment; that would have made no difference with me; but, at the same time, he is qualified for a species of work which has been taken away by machinery.

6040. It has been stated before this Committee that there are not many schools attached to the bleach-works in Bolton. What do you say to that statement?—As far as regards my own works, there is a school within three hundred yards of them. There is a Sunday school and also a day school belonging to the church of St. John; and there is a school that is kept by a man (I forget his name) who takes children for a payment of something like a penny or twopence per week. All the bleach-works round are more or less supplied with schools in a similar way to mine. We have not schools attached to the works, but they are close to them, and the workpeople have an opportunity of going there and getting education if they feel so inclined.

6041. Will that statement apply, not only to your own works, but to those of Mr. Ainsworth, Messrs. Ridgway & Co., and Mr. Cross?—Yes; Mr. Ainsworth has schools of his own which he has built, and Mr. Cross has schools close to his works. I do not know of any bleach-work which has not schools close to it, at which the children may have education if the parents will send them. But, as I stated before, upon making enquiries, I have found that those people in our works who are receiving the best wages, are those whose families are the worst educated: some time ago I gave instructions that no persons should be employed by us who could not both read and write; and, for the future, there will not be a single person in our works who cannot read and write.

6042. It has been stated that the result of legislation on the hours of labour would tend to distribute the work equally throughout the year among the work people. What is your opinion as to that?—I do not see how you could distribute the work equally throughout the year, because the orders come from the merchants in Manchester to us, and the orders come from the merchants abroad to them. Within these last four days we received an order at ten o'clock at night from a Manchester merchant, that some goods which we had in our hands, which were bleached, must not be sent to them in Manchester, but that we must order tin and wood-cases to pack them, and must pack them, and send them off to Liverpool, or else they would be too late for the vessel by which they were to sail. We called up immediately the men who made these things. The men worked all night, and they were got off in time. That is a case in point which occurred within these last four days in our own place. In consequence of these irregularities we cannot have a regular business unless some arrangement could be made by which we should always have work to begin at six o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at six o'clock at night. If I could have regular employment I would not be here to object to a Ten Hours' Bill. But it is the irregularity of our work which causes my objection. A short time ago I was looking over a book in which we put down the hours of labour, and I found that in one day we worked seventeen hours and a-half, and we never worked for three days afterwards. One of those three days was a Sunday, and the other two days were working days. We had not cloth sufficient to be going on. Then immediately a quantity of cloth comes we have to set to work. When we go to Manchester we do not know whether we are to receive any cloth or not, or whether we are to receive 1,000 or 10,000 pieces.

6043. During those three days which you have alluded to, during which there was no employment, were the workpeople at their own homes?—They went where they liked; they were not called upon to be upon the works; they were not upon the premises at all.

6044. Is it your opinion that legislation would affect the quantity of work undertaken in the bleach-works in a year?—Legislation would affect it in the way in which I have described. We cannot get through the work by working regular hours unless we can have the cloth regularly delivered to us. If any plan could be adopted by which we could have the cloth regularly delivered to us we could work

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regular hours; but as long as we are dependent upon the merchants in Manchester, and they are dependent upon the merchants abroad, the orders cannot be regular.

6045. Have you long hours more frequently in those departments of your works in which the callendering and the finishing are performed?—We do not work the long hours that we used to do in the callendering department, because we have speeded our callender so much that we can do the work in a shorter time.

6046. Is not that a branch of your business that is conducted in Manchester in the warehouses there?—Yes, the callendering and making up is performed in Manchester in a similar manner to that in which it is done with us; and if the callenderers and makers up in Manchester were distinct and free from the Bill, not being bleachers, we should be driven to the necessity of building another place for callendering and making up distinct from the bleach-works which the Bill is affecting.

6047. The Committee have had before them several gentlemen from Manchester, who have stated that, whilst it is very proper that legislation should be applied to your works, it would be absurd to apply it to theirs; are you of that opinion?—Legislation ought to apply to them as it does to us; because their work is just the same as ours; I have just mentioned that within four days we have had an order for goods to be packed up at our place, which had never been done before by that house, in consequence of their being wanted by a certain vessel, and we did what they had been in the habit of doing. But if legislation takes place with respect to bleaching and to callendering, and making up attached to bleach-works, and not in the callendering and making up not attached to bleach-works, we shall be obliged either to give up that branch of our business, or to build other places and to carry on the work distinct from the bleaching.

6048. So that that distinction in the legislation would inflict an injury upon you, and still leave another portion of the trade in which long hours could be carried on?—Yes, if it was done in that manner. Supposing that a number of boys or girls had been finishing with us, at six o'clock they would be obliged to go away; but there would be nothing to debar them from going to one of the finishing works; and whilst they were working with me under the Ten Hours' Bill, working with them under no such restriction. They could leave my works at six in the evening and work all night with them.

6049. Is it not the fact that in the early history of the bleaching trade its operations were confined principally to bleaching, and were not extended to the finishing and other departments?—Since I can recollect there was very little in the way of finishing in the bleach-works; we used to make them up, and then they went to the callendering works; now it is not so.

6050. So that the tendency at present is to a certain increase in the operations of the bleach-works so as to finish the goods finally?—Yes, of course, as you go on increasing the business you come into other matters; there was no dyeing at one time in the neighbourhood of Bolton, but Mr. Hardcastle began, and after that Mr. Ainsworth began, and Mr. Bridson. The bleaching was carried on distinct from the trade till they found that there was a certain other process that had to be done, and they thought that they might as well do it themselves.

6051. The Honourable Member for Bolton has said, in his evidence before this Committee, that if a workman stated that he would only work short hours he could obtain no employment in your district; is that your opinion?—No; he can please himself as to whether he works short hours or not; there are plenty of mills in which he can get employment, for the bleach-works are only customers for a certain number of hands, who are very glad to work the long hours because they work by the piece. If they bleach 100 pieces they receive a certain amount of money: and if they bleach 200 they receive double that amount.

6052. Is there not in your district very extensive employment at the present moment, and a very great increase going on as regards the building of cotton mills?—There are several mills being built now in Bolton; the building has much increased.

6053. So that if there were any strong feeling among the workpeople as to regular hours, they might seek other employment?—Yes, they might seek for other employment, and they might have it if they liked; but they will go to that employment where you find them getting the largest amount of wages. They like money best with us; where they can get the greatest amount of wages they will go, and our work being so healthy and clean, they prefer this work.

6054. I think

6054. I think you have stated to this Committee that the wages are higher in the bleach-works than the mills. Is not that so?—I have averaged our own wages, but I do not know what the wages are in the spinning mills. I have only been given to understand that they are not so much in the spinning mills as they are with us in the bleaching works; I find that our men averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* a day for the last 12 months, and our girls, 1*s.* 9*d.* or 1*s.* 10*d.* or 1*s.* 10½*d.*

6055. *Chairman.*] What do the children earn?—The men are rated at 3*s.* a day, the women at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and the boys according to their age. But whatever amount of money they get, they reckon it so many days to the men and so many to the women; it is all calculated by days.

6056. Mr. *Cheetham.*] How many hours do you allow to a day of these wages?—The average is 10 hours and a half of time spent upon the ground per day.

6057. Is the amount of wages for the women (which is 15*d.* a day) based upon the calculation of 10½ hours as a day's work?—They are rated at that, but it may come to considerably more. They are rated at 1*s.* 3*d.* when they have actually got 1*s.* 10*d.* and 1*s.* 10½*d.*, for the work they have done.

6058. And of the long hours?—Yes, but still they have made it by being upon the ground 10½ hours per day.

6059. Assuming that when they are on the ground, they are not employed for two or three hours, but are waiting for some other process to be completed, would not that still be called a day's work?—Whatever there is to do, they get it done, and at the end of each fortnight the quantity of goods that are bleached is reckoned up at a certain price, and they get so much money from that according to their wages, the men's wages being 3*s.* a day, the women's 1*s.* 3*d.*, and the boys', according to their age, from 9*d.* to 2*s.* per day; I cannot give it exactly, but I can state that they are rated at 3*s.*, and that the money they have actually received is 4*s.* 6*d.* That is caused by the quantity of work they do, and by having machinery by which we get through our work quicker, and the work-people make better wages.

6060. Henry Waring has stated to this Committee that it has been made matter of complaint among the workpeople, that their health has been impaired by their labour in the bleach-works; is that your opinion?—I do not believe that it is the case; but a person will be examined before this Committee to-day, from Mr. Ainsworth's works, who has returns to lay before the Committee, which contain a statement as to the health of the workpeople, how long they have been ill, and so on.

6061. He also stated that there was a time, in Bolton, when any one of the masters might have turned out a number of men fitted for the Life Guards; but that they could not do the same thing now; is that your opinion?—No, there is not any difference; the work is not hard work now, because the machinery does the work.

6062. Will the personal appearance of the men compare fairly with other employments?—I would back my men against any men in any other employment. Among a number of men, you may pick out those that are employed in the bleach-works from those that are employed in other employments; they look so much better.

6063. The Honourable Member for Bolton has informed the Committee that in his opinion the feeling of the workpeople is unanimously in favour of legislation; have you had any opportunity of ascertaining how far that opinion is correct?—It is not unanimous; there are some that are in favour of it, and some that are not. There are some girls who are employed by me, who subscribe a penny a week towards the movement. One of the men had told them that they must subscribe; they said they would not give anything, but they were obliged to give over, for they were scouted, and called names by the men for not subscribing; they said they wanted no Ten Hours' Bill.

6064. He has also stated that, in his opinion, the master bleachers have not a strong opinion that legislation would materially injure their position; is that your opinion?—Not at all; and it is not the opinion of the master bleachers generally.

6065. Do you think that merchants would submit themselves to the altered state of things in the way of doing their business?—I think that Mr. Barber has given the Committee a good answer to that question, in saying that it cannot be done. And if it cannot be done with the merchants, it would follow that it cannot be done by us; it is not in their power, receiving instructions from the

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merchants abroad to do so. Perhaps a vessel comes in with an order; they say, "Send so many goods by such a vessel; if you can send so many white, send them; if not, send all gray." There is not so much white cloth going out as there used to be; the foreigners can bleach cloth quite as well as we can. At the Paris Exhibition, it was noticed that the foreign goods were bleached better than we could bleach them; but then they could not finish them so well.

6066. Are the goods bleached in France?—They are bleached in France. This new machinery which I have put up, saving so much labour, was originally invented in Belgium, and came to us from France; therefore they are forwarder than we are in those bleaching processes, at all events, whatever they may be in other matters.

6067. Can you furnish to the Committee a statement showing the comparative numbers of men, women, and children employed in your works?—I have it here (*producing the same*).

Vide Appendix.

6068. Will you hand it in to the Committee (*the same was handed in*).

6069. I believe that it is not your desire to employ very young children in your works?—No, it is not indeed; in fact, they are not required. The young children are employed by us in hooking up; but there is a machine coming out now that will be worked by machinery which will supersede them, and those who have been working at hooking up will be turned out, and must get employment somewhere else.

6070. Is it the fact that the employment of young children is more to gratify the desire of the parents than from any desire on your part?—It has always been the desire of the parents; they have always been wanting to get employment; we find it the case that they will work their children to get money, and not think anything of their education.

6071. After a careful consideration of the proposed legislation in your department of labour, is it still your decided opinion that it would be injurious rather than beneficial?—I am sure that it would be injurious, and I do not see how it could be carried out.

6072. Mr. *Butt.*] Do you recollect the agitation which took place before the passing of the Factory Act?—Yes, I recollect that it was so, but I never interfered with it, because it had nothing to do with my business.

6073. Do you know that there was the same objection to legislative interference under the Factory Act as there is now to the proposed legislation?—There could not be the same objection, because the factory people can go to Liverpool and buy their cotton, and can commence at six o'clock in the morning, and leave off at six o'clock at night. Their goods will not take harm by waiting; but with us it is quite different. As I have said before, if you will adopt some plan to find us work to commence at six o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at six at night, I shall have no objection to being put under legislative restriction.

6074. Were not strong objections made to shortening the labour in factories?—Yes, they made objections; but they could not make the same objections as we do.

6075. You say that men are rated at 3 *s.* a day, girls at 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, and boys at from 9 *d.* to 2 *s.*; but that in point of fact the men receive 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, and the girls 1 *s.* 9 *d.*?—Yes.

6076. Then in fact they receive wages equivalent to the wages for a day and a half?—Yes.

6077. Did I rightly understand you to say that if they did a certain amount of work which you considered a day's work, they would receive 3 *s.*?—Yes. They may do less, and then they do not receive 3 *s.*, and if they do more they receive more than 3 *s.*

6078. Are the extra wages which they receive created by long hours?—They are created by doing more work; but, as I have already stated, the average of the time they have been upon the ground during the last 12 months has not been more than 10 hours and a half a day.

6079. How do you rate that 3 *s.*?—I say that that is the regular wages that we give to the men, and we rate them at 3 *s.* a day.

6080. Is there work for which you pay 3 *s.* what they can easily do in 10 ½ hours?—We pay a certain price for the work; but instead of 3 *s.*, they have made 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, by being on the ground 10 ½ hours.

6081. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Is it the fact that 3 *s.* per day for 10 ½ hours' work would

would be paid, supposing that men were doing it by day's work?—Yes, you may put it in that way.

6082. Instead of that you pay by the piece?—Yes.

6083. And when the whole work is turned out, you look at the result, and divide it after the rate of 3 *s.* per adult labourer, and in proportion for women and children?—Yes, that is the way we do it.

6084. Mr. *Buck.*] Do you pay 3 *s.* for a certain amount of work?—Supposing I give a man 3 *s.* for bleaching 100 pieces; if he does 150 pieces, he receives 4 *s.* 6 *d.*; if he only does 50 pieces, he receives 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

6085. Mr. *Turner.*] If he did 150 pieces instead of 100 pieces, and was only employed 10½ hours, would he still receive a day and a half's wages?—Yes.

6086. Mr. *Butt.*] What would be the ordinary time in which a man would do 100 pieces?—From seven to eight hours would be the ordinary time in which he would make his 3 *s.*

6087. Mr. *Wise.*] Three shillings, in fact, represents that number of hours?—Yes.

6088. Mr. *Butt.*] Three shillings, in fact, represents from seven to eight hours labour?—Yes.

6089. Of course allowing for meal times?—Yes.

6090. Mr. *Wise.*] Do you allow an hour and a half for meal times?—Yes, but they may get their work done before they go home to tea; and if they commence at six o'clock in the morning, they would make a day's wages before that time.

6091. Mr. *Butt.*] Can a man, by working 10 hours and a half in your establishment, earn 3 *s.*?—He will earn more than that.

6092. Mr. *Turner.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that, if he did 150 pieces in the 10 hours (supposing a day's work to be 100 pieces), he would get a day and a half's wages; but that if from dilatoriness or mismanagement, he was 12 hours in doing 100 pieces, he would only get 3 *s.*?—Yes.

6093. Supposing a man of ordinary efficiency at this work came at six o'clock in the morning and left off at six at night, going home for meals, what amount of work would he do?—In my establishment they have only been upon the ground that time, and I have stated that they have made 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a day.

6094. Do you think that if a man works from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night, going home for meals, he would earn more than 3 *s.*?—He would earn more; according to my statement the men have only averaged 10 hours a day, and they have made 4 *s.* 6 *d.*; therefore, within half-an-hour of the day's work, he would make his 4 *s.* 6 *d.* I got that statement made out mainly on account of this agitation, in order to see really what our men had worked.

6095. Mr. *Butt.*] Is it the fact that originally 3 *s.* was fixed as being what was considered a fair day's work?—Yes.

6096. And that when improvements have been made in the machinery which have enabled the workmen to do more than a fair day's work they have had the benefit of it?—Yes; they have in one way but not in another, because we have been obliged to reduce the number of hands; but those who have been kept on have got as good or better wages than before.

6097. Did I rightly understand you to say that in one department, where there were formerly 43 hands, mostly adults, you have now 19 hands, of whom 17 are boys?—Yes; that is in the bleaching department.

6098. Is that owing to improvements in machinery?—That is owing to improvements in machinery.

6099. Would it be a correct inference from that, that the effect of the improvements in machinery has been to cause the employment of a larger number of children?—There must be the same quantity of boys as there were formerly; the men have been discharged, but I fancy that we have the same quantity of boys as before. We have no more boys on the ground than we had before, but we have a great many less men.

6100. Is not the tendency of the improvements in machinery to throw your work more into the hands of boys?—Yes, it has been so; and if those men who are employed now were to leave us we should put boys into their places.

6101. Are you yourself personally conversant with the hours at which your workpeople come, and the hours at which they go away?—No.

6102. Have you read the evidence given before Mr. Tremenheere by your workpeople?—Yes; I explained in my former evidence that Mr. Tremenheere had not put down in his report all that had passed.

 6103. That

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6103. That was only in the one instance of Thomas Spencer?—Yes.

6104. I find here, in page 32 of his report, the evidence of Jane Kay, to the following effect:—"I am 17; I have been working here two years; since New Year's day we have come at half-past four and five o'clock, and worked till eight and nine." Was that an accurate representation?—It was not true.

6105. What time did she work?—I know that she did not work for that length of time, because I had the foreman speak to Mr. Tremenheere, and he did speak to Mr. Tremenheere, and told him that it was not true. I have not my books now in which I have the work entered, or I could tell the Committee the time they have worked. They have all worked the same length of time.

6106. She goes on to say, "When there are pushers on we come towards one o'clock in the morning and work till towards nine at night." Is that true?—As to coming in the morning, they say that they come at one o'clock in the morning, and I believe there are some who have come at that time, but they are often an hour or two hours behind their time; they do not keep to the time at which they should come, and therefore they do not work the time stated.

6107. As a matter of fact, could you say that it has never happened that girls of that age have come at one o'clock in the morning and worked on till nine at night?—I will not say that; I dare say it has happened.

6108. She goes on to say, "We then come about five o'clock the next morning and work till about nine; sometimes I come twice a week till one o'clock in the morning and work till nine at night." Will you state that that has not happened?—No; but if they work long hours in one night they go home sooner the next night.

6109. Have you read the evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Nicholson?—Yes, I have.

6110. He says, "Although these girls say they come at the hours they mention, they are the hours at which they are ordered to come, but they frequently come from a quarter of an hour to an hour later, sometimes even later than that. They are correct in saying they go away between eight and nine; and sometimes also they begin work at 12 o'clock at night, and may do so two nights following." Do you think that that is a correct representation?—If Mr. Nicholson has said it I am sure that it is correct; I should place entire confidence in what he says as being correct.

6111. He says further, "In some cases, when they come at 12 at night, they will work till eight or nine the following evening." From your knowledge of what passes in your establishment, do you think that that is correct?—Mr. Nicholson is there regularly, and I am not there regularly; but I am sure that whatever he has stated is correct; he would not state an untruth.

6112. Will you say that the girls have not come at 12 o'clock at night, and worked till eight or nine the following evening?—There may have been one case of it, but it has not happened within this last 12 months; I am sure of that. If you will look to the statement which I gave to Mr. Tremenheere, of the variations in the amount of employment, you will see that they vary as much as 155 per cent. That will show that the statements which you are putting to me may be correct.

6113. Would not you think that that was a great deal too long for girls of that age to work?—If they have nothing to do the day afterwards I do not consider it too long. But such a thing has never occurred, during the last 12 months, with us; we are abridging the work as much as is in our power. If a man worked all night, and had little or nothing to do the night afterwards, he would never feel it.

6114. Are you of opinion that a girl of 16 or 17 years of age, could be worked from 12 o'clock at night till eight or nine the following evening, without injury, provided that she rested the following day?—Yes, I think so, because they are not constantly employed. If orders of that character are sent, there is not cloth sufficient to go on regularly, and they have to wait for the cloth coming from the stove if they are in the making-up room, or they have to wait till some other process is finished, if they are in any other department.

6115. Supposing that they did that twice a week, do you think that it would injure their health?—I do not think it has occurred twice a week, but even if it has I do not think that it would injure them. If you were to see our work-people, who have been worked so long a time, you would say that you never saw more healthy workpeople in your life. The Committee will have statistics laid before

before them, from Mr. Ainsworth's works, as to the health of the people, and how long they have been sick, and that will answer the question; I have not gone fully into it myself; the atmosphere of the works is good and clean, and it is a healthy employment.

6116. May I ask you to look at the evidence given by Jane Spencer before Mr. Tremenheere; she says, "I generally come to work at five o'clock in the morning and stay till between eight and nine at night;" do you think that that is accurate?—Mr. Nicholson does not say anything about her; but they all work the same hours, and if you get it for one you get it for another; but with respect to Jane Spencer, I may say that I gave instructions that the children should wear slippers in consequence of their complaining of sore ankles; and they have done so with the exception of Jane Spencer, who would wear clogs, and now she is complaining of sore ankles and sore feet, and the others are not.

6117. Are you able to speak on this subject from your own knowledge?—I am not regularly there; but if you will put your finger upon any particular days, I will tell you how long she was there.

6118. The statement made is, that girls of 17 years of age have generally come to work at five o'clock in the morning, and remained at work till eight or nine at night; are the Committee to understand that you are unable to say that such a thing has never occurred?—I say that such a thing has occurred, but not as a regular thing. I think it cannot be true, because we have to work according to the work that comes in, if you were to fix upon one particular month, that is our busiest month in the year, you might find that they have worked long hours. But in other months, when we have had nothing to do, they have only been upon the ground three or four hours a day, and sometimes they have never been upon the ground at all in the day; and therefore, if we are to be legislated upon, how must we get through the work.

6119. Is your answer founded upon the inference that you do not think that they could have had that amount of work?—If you will give me any particular date, I will write home, and get the amount of work done from the books.

6120. Was not this evidence given upon the 18th of January 1855?—Yes. Since then, the work has been a great deal more regular, as is shown by the statistical tables which I have handed in; and we are endeavouring, to the utmost of our power, to regulate the hours of labour; and they have been regulated, because the average is only 10½ hours a day.

6121. Can you give the Committee information from your knowledge of what has gone on in your own works as to whether that statement is true?—I cannot speak as to that time; but I can say that, for the last 12 months, they have only done an average of 10½ hours a day. But you will find in Mr. Tremenheere's Report that the girls who worked together gave different statements, so that they do not agree as to the statements which they have given.

6122. Are the Committee to understand that you are not able to state whether the girls have not for a considerable period worked so many hours a day?—I am able to say that that is not true. But I will not say that for a day such a thing may not have taken place. I do not think that it has happened half a dozen times in a year.

6123. Is it your present impression that it would not be true that Jane Spencer generally came to work at five o'clock in the morning, and remained till eight or nine at night?—My impression is that it is not true. Such a thing may have taken place occasionally; but I could write home to know the real truth, if it is required.

6124. Could you ascertain by writing home the hours at which Jane Spencer worked for the two months preceding the 18th of January 1855?—Yes, I can do that.

6125. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Could you state how long she has worked in the two months of June and July 1854?—Yes; but I think that if you take two of our largest months you ought to take two of our shortest months also.

6126. Mr. *Butt.*] Will you furnish the Committee with a statement of the number of hours worked by the young women in your establishment, from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855, and from the 18th of June 1854 till the 18th of August in the same year?—Yes, I will; but at the same time I should state that you must not take that as a general rule; for, as I have said, for the last 12 months the whole of the time has not averaged more than 10½ hours, which is the time that you are legislating for.

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6127. Mary Ann Hayward, in her evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, says, "I am 21; I have worked here eight years; we all in the room are ordered to come generally at five o'clock." Are you able to say that is an accurate representation?—I must answer that question in this way, they all come at the same time and leave off at the same time, and if I give a statement with regard to one it will apply to all. They all work together, and they come at the same time and go away at the same time.

6128. Would a girl of 13 years old be worked as long as a girl of 16 or 17?—They would all be worked the same length of time.

6129. Supposing that a girl of 13 had come at 12 o'clock one night, would you allow her to come at six or seven the next morning?—She might do so, but of course she would not be paid for the regular hours. There is a machine being invented now for plaiting up cloth that will do away with all these times that you are speaking of; it will all be done by machinery in another twelve months, and therefore you will not require legislation for this description of work; it is used now for the gray cloth, and what will do for the gray cloth will do for the white.

6130. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that, although you were able to arrange your work so as to give the people their accustomed holidays at Whitsuntide and Christmas, you could not, from the nature of the work, arrange to leave off at a particular time, so as always to give them 12 hours' rest out of the 24?—If we know it beforehand we can arrange it, because we do it for Sunday; we can put the goods in such a state that they will not spoil, but if it were to come day after day there would be a difficulty. The first process is stewing, which continues for eight hours, and the next is boiling in ashes and alkali, which continues eight hours, and then there is the chemical process, and the souring. If they were to leave off while the cloth is undergoing the process, in two hours the headings would be gone; and if the sours were not washed out of the cloth it might rot; as we are situated all these things would be against us.

6131. But still, in spite of all these things, you are able to stop on Sunday?—Yes, because we are aware of it; we could not do it every night, because we could not put the cloth into a fit state.

6132. Did I rightly understand you to say that you were making arrangements to obviate the necessity of working these long hours?—We are; we have shortened the working as much as we can, so that our average hours for these last 12 months have only been 10½ hours per day.

6133. May the Committee assume that you have had some success in your endeavours?—We have done it by means of machinery, and that machinery will keep going on and turning the people out of employment.

6134. As you have had this success, so far, do you think that it is perfectly impossible to accommodate your business to even more regular hours than at present?—The difficulty is in stopping in the midst of the process; we cannot do that.

6135. Mr. *Butt.*] Why cannot you arrange the processes so that they should always naturally end at the time of giving over work?—Perhaps we have not the cloth at the right time; we take eight hours in the process of stewing, and the boiling in lime takes eight hours, and we often cannot get the cloth ready for the kiers till a certain time of the day. The cloth will come from Manchester, and it will have to be unloaded, and then stitched together, and then singed.

6136. Would not it be always possible to put off the process till the next day?—If we did that, we could not get the cloth ready by the time the merchant wants it. I do not want to work long hours, or I should not have laid out so much money as I have done in bringing it to a better state. Evidence has been given to this Committee that the callendering departments work much longer hours than are worked in the bleaching departments; but from experience this last year I find that that is not the case in my works at all.

6137. Supposing that you could take your own time, would there be any difficulty in so arranging the process as to stop at a given hour in the evening?—If we had the cloth, there would be no difficulty, but the merchants cannot give it us regularly, on account of the orders coming from abroad. If we could get plenty of time and plenty of cloth, I should not mind being put under restriction as to hours.

6138. Does the process itself create any impossibility in stopping at a given hour every evening?—I should be happy to show any of the Committee over my works, and then they will see the difficulty.

6139. Supposing that you had abundance of time, or that you were allowed to take your own time in performing your work, could not you make arrangements to stop regularly at six o'clock in the evening?—I think we might.

6140. Then the difficulty does not arise from any thing peculiar in the process of preparing the cloth?—It is in consequence of this pressure that we are obliged to have the cloth sent in at a certain time; and to show the Committee how we are pressed, I said that within these last four days we had received an order at 10 o'clock at night for goods to be baled by the next morning. We sent to the men, and got them up, and got them to work all night to catch the vessel; but if that had not been done, the vessel would have been lost.

6141. *Chairman.*] If you were restricted by law as to the hours you might work, would not you be likely to receive your orders sooner from the merchants?—They could not help themselves; you cannot make a law for the wind, where there are sailing vessels, they cannot sail without wind.

6142. Would not the manufacturer in that case know that he was asking you to do a physical impossibility?—If a law of that sort were passed it would drive the bleaching into other countries, where they can do it as well as ourselves. A merchant will go from one bleacher to another, for 2¼ per cent.; we bleach 40 yards of shirting, and carry it from Manchester to the works and back again, all for 9*d.*, and there is not much margin to work upon there.

6143. With respect to the processes which necessitate long hours are there any beyond what is called the boiling and the chemical process?—The same thing is repeated over again; the stewing is done once, the boiling in ashes is in the same condition, but it is not so long; and then the cloth undergoes twice chemicaling and twice souring.

6144. Are children engaged in these processes?—In the bleaching we have 17 boys and two men, but we have no girls; we have 19 people employed, two men and 17 boys, and the ages of the boys are stated in the paper which I have handed in.

6145. I think, in answer to a question put to you, you stated that you could not fix your hours for coming in the morning?—A person in each room fixes the hours for the room; the manager knows what cloth is coming up, and he may say to the people in his room, "You may come at six or seven," or, "You will not be wanted till nine," or, "We shall not work any work to-day." I have a statement of the hours of work, and on looking it over I find that we worked long hours one night, and we did not work for three days afterwards.

6146. Did I rightly understand you to say that, in your opinion the Bill would be worthless if the callendering works were excluded from the operation of it?—If the finishers and makers up in Manchester are excluded from the Bill, and we are included in the Bill, we must either give up that branch of employment or we must build buildings at a distance, and in that case we should be excluded from the operation of the Bill except for bleaching. We could immediately go away from there, and could begin to callender and make up in that place; and the people in Manchester are doing it in the very same manner that we do, and they will take it from us unless we build another place; and if we build another place, the Bill is not worth anything as regards callendering and making up.

6147. Mr. *Butt.*] Why do you say that the Bill is worthless?—Because these works do not come under the Bill; and all the evidence that the Committee have received show that the callendering and making up occupy the longest hours.

6148. Mr. *Cheetham.*] And the youngest portion of the population?—Yes.

6149. *Chairman.*] Under the arrangements which you have now stated of building separate houses, would the people who have been employed during the legal day in the bleaching process be after the legal hours taken away to the new finishing establishments?—We might do so if we liked, and they might come if they thought proper; but if they did not like to come to work again we might get fresh hands to do so.

6150. Is it the practice that the people who work in these separate processes can easily or do ordinarily apply themselves indiscriminately to all the different departments?—No, they cannot do that; but, with regard to the process of

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callendering and making up, if that is included in the Bill, when bleaching is upon the same premises, they might work till six o'clock at callendering or finishing with me, at my bleach-works, and then they might go to another person, who was a callenderer and maker up, but not under the Bill, and work at night for him.

6151. But, with respect to the people who are employed in the other branches of the bleaching business, do you consider that they would be secured by the Bill from working more than the legal hours?—Yes; but then there are very few people employed in the bleaching business now, because it is done by machinery.

6152. Be they few or be they many, would the Bill be worthless as applied to them?—I think it would be worth very little; because when they work by machinery you can have adults, or you can manage in different ways, so as not to make the Bills worth much.

6153. Mr. *Butt.*] Have not you now 17 boys working in the bleaching department?—Yes.

6154. Supposing you were to overwork those boys to a great excess (if such a thing were possible), do not you think that it would be a valuable thing to give them protection?—I consider that there is no work in that department; it is all done by machinery. They only have to be there by it, to guide the cloth.

6155. Supposing that they were obliged to remain all night by the machine, do not you think that it would be a considerable protection to them to allow them to go home at an early hour in the evening?—It would; but they could never be kept that length of time with us. I should not like to see boys kept so long a time as that; but if you were to restrict them, they might put adults on.

6156. Should not you consider, if you were to see these young boys, at that early age, when they ought to be receiving education, working day after day, and night after night, for these long hours, that some legislative protection should be afforded them?—I do not like the overworking of boys; I never did; and as soon as ever the thing was brought to my attention by Mr. Tremenheere coming, and by my hearing that he was come, I turned my attention to endeavour, as far as I possibly could, to reduce the hours of labour.

6157. Was it the coming of Mr. Tremenheere that turned your attention to the hours of overwork that existed?—Of course, my attention was brought to the question generally. I did not know that they were overworking; as I had never thought of the time that they were employed.

6158. At that time you did turn your attention to it?—Yes, I did.

6159. And so far as your own establishment is concerned, you have endeavoured to remedy that evil?—As far as our own establishment is concerned, we have endeavoured to remedy that evil, and I think we shall still go further; and I think that the effect of the improvements will be to throw a great number of people out of employment who are now employed.

6160. Mr. *Cheetham.*] If you have effected a remedy, it has been by the introduction of improved machinery?—Yes; and we shall go on again. There is machinery coming out now, which I know is used for plaiting up cloth; it will be done by machinery, though it is now done by girls with us.

6161. Mr. *Butt.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, that you have been influenced in doing that by a sense of the impropriety of allowing young persons to work so long?—I have been influenced in doing that by knowing what I did not know before, the length of hours that the young people have been employed.

6162. And by feeling that you, as a humane employer, ought not to overwork your people?—I do not want to overwork anybody. For this last twelve months I have been trying to avoid it.

6163. Supposing that there are other employers who are not actuated by the same feelings as you are, and who, even after having their attention called to it, persevere in long hours (which you think wrong), would not you think it right to restrain them by legislative interference?—I should not think that there is a bleacher in the trade who will not eventually do what I have done; they are getting into it as fast as they can.

6164. Is it your opinion, that without legislative interference, the abridgment of the hours of labour will be carried on by the good feeling of the masters in the trade?—Yes.

6165. Would not it be in the power of one or two obstinate or cruel men (if there were either among the bleachers,) to go on working long hours?—If they did

did not put up the improved machinery they would not be able to compete with us; they would be obliged to put up the machinery.

6166. Supposing they had the machinery, might they not still work long hours?—We cannot help pushes; the trade is so very fluctuating, and the goods come in so irregularly. In some days we have little or nothing to do, and in other days we are pushed for cloth.

6167. Do I rightly understand you to say that you would not think that any consideration of gain would justify systematic overwork?—I do not like overwork; and they are not overworked now, as they were at the time Mr. Tremenheere came, because the bleachers' attention has been called to it, and they have done all that is in their power to relieve them from the over hours of labour.

6168. Do you consider that you have made any sacrifice in doing that?—I have made some sacrifice, because it has cost me money to put down the machinery; but eventually it will pay me back, because I get through more work at less expense, and with less hands.

6169. Mr. *Turner*.] Supposing that this Act should pass, regulating the bleaching and the finishing, and making-up works attached to it, but not extending to the callendering and making-up at the warehouses at Manchester; would not you endeavour, as much as you possibly could, to free yourself from the operation of such an Act, by separating your callendering and finishing department from your bleaching works?—There is no doubt of it; I have already said so.

6170. In that case you would only be under the operation of such an Act to the extent to which you carried on the operation of bleaching as a separate business from callendering and finishing?—Yes; and with respect to bleaching, we now do it by machinery, and by fitting up more machines we might get it done in a shorter time, but if we did not that would be the case.

6171. Then as far as the bleaching part of your business is concerned, would not you set your wits to work to free yourselves as much as possible, if not entirely, from the visits of the inspectors?—Certainly we should.

6172. Would not you, in the first place, endeavour to get rid of all juvenile labour?—Yes; and we should do without boys as we have done without women.

6173. Would not you endeavour to throw off entirely the employment of young women?—Yes; all that we have been doing is with a view to do away with manual labour; we do not employ any young girls now, except in hooking up, and this machinery which I have mentioned will be at work soon to do away with that employment.

6174. Do you think, looking at this question in a benevolent point of view, that the workpeople are mistaken in the view which they take, and that this Bill will do mischief, rather than good, in throwing such a large number of young persons and women out of employment?—Yes; I am sure that it will do a great deal of mischief. The workpeople do not know what they will bring upon themselves, if they get a Ten Hours' Bill; it will fall more upon them than it will upon the masters, because of the introduction of machinery.

6175. Is there abundant employment for young women in your district?—There are plenty of mills.

6176. Then the alternative will be, that instead of going to the bleach-works they will go to the mills?—Certainly.

6177. Lord *Naas*.] Do they prefer the bleaching work to the mill work?—Yes, they prefer the bleaching work; they would rather, by half, work there than they would in the mills; they come into the bleach-works from the mills.

6178. Why is that?—Because it is so much more healthy; it is much cleaner.

6179. Do they prefer working in the bleach-works even though the mills are under the Ten Hours' Bill?—They would prefer working in the bleach-works, which are not under a Ten Hours' Bill to working in the mills, which are.

6180. Mr. *Crook*.] Will you state to the Committee what number of women and young persons you employ?—It is stated in the paper which I have handed in.

6181. Did not you state that you had 127 people in your employment?—Yes.

6182. If you deduct two, which are the number of men, does that not leave 125 women and children?—No; when I spoke of there being two men employed, I referred only to one department, which is called the bleaching department; we have men employed in every other department.

6183. Could you give the Committee an estimate of the number of people who would

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would be affected by a Bill of this kind?—It is all set out in the paper which I have handed in.

6184. You stated that if a Bill of this kind passed there would be an inducement to construct a separate work at Manchester, or some other place, for the callendering department?—We need not go to Manchester; we might go to the other side of the road.

6185. You saw the Bill brought in last Session, do you think that it would be practicable to evade the law in that manner?—I do.

6186. The part of the Interpretation Clause which refers to this subject is as follows: "Whenever any of the processes of callendering, finishing, making up, or packing any linen, or other fabrics, after the same shall have been bleached or dyed, or any other process used in the preparation of such dyed or bleached goods, shall be carried on in connexion with any bleaching work as above defined, then and in that case all callendering rooms, mangling rooms, lapping rooms, lapping lofts, and all other rooms, buildings and premises, of what nature or kind whatsoever in which any such processes shall be so carried on, shall be deemed to be part of such bleaching work within the meaning of this Act." Do you think that if you established a work on the other side of the street it would not be within the action of the law?—If the callenderer and makers up in Manchester are not included in the Bill, and it only extends to places where there are bleach-works, in that case we could do it; but if you put the callenderers and makers up under the same restriction we could not do it.

6187. Do you consider that they are not under the same law by the present Bill?—I understand that they are clear, but the Honourable Member who brought in the Bill can answer that question better than I can; as far as I have thought of it, it will act in that way.

6188. Are not you sufficiently conversant with the Bill of last year to be able to speak as to the effect of it?—As I understand it the Manchester callenderers and makers up are not included in the Bill.

6189. Do you think that it will be possible for you to conduct a finishing work at any other place which would not be under the operation of the Bill?—Yes; I should not conduct it in my own name, I should conduct it in another person's name; I should have a partner, and let him carry on the finishing, and I should carry on the bleaching.

6190. If it were one concern would not that clause in the Bill regulate it?—If it is the same concern that clause applies to it, but I would take care that it was not the same concern.

6191. You say that you do not like to see boys employed very long days or in the night; do you like to see young girls and women employed long hours and in the night?—No, I do not; but I can tell you this, that after the boys have done their work I can see them running about, and playing; they are not tired.

6192. Since Mr. Tremenheere came round has not your impression in favour of more reasonable hours of labour been strengthened?—When Mr. Tremenheere came round, and the inquiry was made before him, I was surprised at the answers that were given, and it called my attention to it, and from that time I have endeavoured to reduce the hours of labour as much as possible for the people under my employment.

6193. Did not you state in your evidence the other day that the introduction of machinery had had a great effect in reducing the number of hours' labour, and that it had made the hours of labour more regular?—I believe in answer to a question about callendering, I stated that we had speeded the callenders quicker, and that of course we got through more work.

6194. Did I rightly understand you to say that your work is a great deal more regular?—Yes; this speeding of the machinery makes it more regular; where we could only run through 100 pieces formerly we can now run 150 through the same machine by speeding it quicker.

6195. Is not there less necessity for working long hours in consequence of that?—The result of the alteration is that we have not worked so many hours.

6196. Are not you aware that the average of the hours in your works is precisely the same as those which the Bill attempts to enact?—Yes; but we have not work to enable us to work regularly, it is on account of the pushes that the work is irregular; I would not say that we have not in any case worked more than 10 ½ hours a day, but that is the average.

6197. Is

6197. Is your objection to the Bill that it interferes with irregular hours?—Yes; we could never make it answer; it would drive the work away from this country.

6198. Do you think that it would put the bleachers to such inconvenience that it would drive the business away?—I think that the merchants would send their cloth away; they would have it packed and sent away at once.

6199. Since you were a bleacher have the hours of labour been more regular than they were formerly in your works?—We can get the work done much quicker. When I first began to bleach we bleached perhaps 20,000 pieces in a month, but we can do 100,000 pieces now and can do them better.

6200. Do you work as often in the night as you used to do?—We work just as the cloth comes, either in the night or in the day, and we are glad to get it and to get rid of it as fast as we can, and to get paid for it.

6201. Do you work more in the night, or less in the night, than you did formerly?—We work less in the night.

6202. Do you work more short days and fewer extremely long days than you used to do?—I have already mentioned that our men have eight hours to themselves out of the twenty-four.

6203. Have you heard any complaints from the merchants, with regard to inconvenience, in consequence of the work being more regular?—We have had no complaints at all from the merchants, unless we do not send their goods up when they want them. They may want them back in three or four days, and our irregularity depends upon that. If they could get their orders from abroad, and give their orders to us, so as to let the cloth come pretty regularly when we wanted work, it would not be so; but they cannot do so, because they have to wait till the price is such that they can buy; one is dependent upon another.

6204. I think you have quoted Mr. Barbour's opinion upon that point?—Yes, I have.

6205. Do you agree with Mr. Barbour, in the opinion that if the hours of labour were more limited it would tend to induce the merchants to give out their orders more regularly?—Since Mr. Barbour gave his evidence here, he wanted some goods bleached, and the bleacher said that he could not have them in the time that he had given, because it was too short a time, and he lost the cloth by that; so that he gives evidence one way, and works in another. The merchants receive the orders, and they are bound by the orders that they receive, and we are bound by the orders that we receive. That is the way of business.

6206. Did you see that part of Mr. Barbour's evidence, in which he states the general working of the present system of pushing, and in which he says, "They say, We will furnish such a quantity of goods if you will deliver them by a given day"?—Yes; Mr. Barbour will deliver us the cloth, which we are to deliver back again by a certain day.

6207. Mr. Barbour goes on to say, "We go to the bleachers and say, 'If you can finish us a quantity of shirtings, or other things, upon a given day, we will give you them;' there will be no necessity for that if all are upon the same footing; I do not think it would make any great difference, whether we got those goods by the very day we desired to have them; if they missed this vessel, we should get one in the course of a fortnight afterwards;" do not you think that that is a fair statement of the amount of inconvenience?—I think, if you go a little further, you will see that when Mr. Barbour was asked if he would not like to be brought under the restrictions as to his hours of labour, in the packing and putting-up departments, he said, "Certainly not; it could not be done." Therefore I think I may give Mr. Barbour's answer to the question which has been put to me.

6208. Mr. *Turner*.] Mr. Barbour says, that if he missed one vessel he might ship the goods in a fortnight by another; are there vessels going every fortnight to all parts of the world?—I should think not; I should think that there could not have been a vessel going every fortnight to the place for which we had a push a few days ago. If there had been another vessel going in a fortnight, perhaps they would not have pushed us so hard; but I never asked the question.

6209. Mr. *Crook*.] If this Bill had passed, would you have been able to get that cloth out in that time?—Yes; because it had been bleached by us, and was sent out to those who were not under restriction, the joiners and tin-plate workers, to make the tin and wood cases.

 6210. Would

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6210. Would this proposed Bill have affected that case?—It would not have affected that case, because the goods were bleached, and the cases were not brought unto the ground, I think, till about 10 o'clock the next morning.

6211. Were any women and children employed after six o'clock at night upon that order?—Not one.

6212. Mr. *Turner*.] Did not you quote that case to show that there was a great necessity, sometimes, to meet the sailing of a particular vessel?—I stated it to show the pushes that we are subjected to.

6213. Mr. *Crook*.] Do you admit that this Bill would not affect such pushes as that?—It would not have affected that one; the work which was affected by it, from 10 o'clock at night till 10 o'clock the next morning, was that of men not on the premises, who are in the habit of making these tin and wood cases; but the boxes came to us in the morning, when we could put the goods in and send them off by rail.

6214. Mr. *Dalglish*.] Do you bleach by machinery?—We do.

6215. What description of machinery do you use?—"Winches."

6216. Are the goods taken out of the boiler by the winches?—They are taken out of the boiler by the winches; they are caught by the winches, and are taken to the kier.

6217. Does not a kier hold a certain amount of cloth?—It holds two tons' weight.

6218. In getting the cloth from Manchester does two ton weight always represent the same number of yards?—No; some 40 yard pieces will weigh 12 or 16 lbs., and others will weigh only 2½ lbs., or something of that sort; there is as much difference as that.

6219. In the filling of this boiler, is there not a great disproportion in the time required, according to the weight of the cloth?—I could not get the lighter cloth in more easily than heavier cloth; it depends upon the bulk of the cloth. The kier will only hold a certain quantity, but we generally consider that the kier will hold two tons' weight.

6220. Supposing that two tons' weight of cloth amounted in one case to 2,000 pieces, and in another case to 3,000 pieces, would not it take longer for this machinery to run the 3,000 pieces into the kier, than it would to run the 2,000?—It would, of course.

6221. Consequently, if the kier had to be filled by machinery, could you limit a certain time for that?—The more cloth there is, of course, it takes more time to run it through, for the machinery only goes at a certain speed.

6222. Do you require to fill your kier before the process begins?—Yes; we always fill the kier before we put the steam to it.

6223. Consequently, although ten hours might do for a certain piece of cloth, would not a longer period be required for the same weight of cloth if it extended to a greater bulk?—Yes; it is just according to the difference of length. If you can run 1,000 yards through the machine in an hour, it must take two hours to run 2,000.

6224. And you require to have the kier filled before you go on?—Yes, we fill the kier before we begin to turn the steam upon it.

6225. Would not those operations involve this consequence, that if you had a medium weight of cloth, and a certain number of yards which would go through in 10 hours, if you increase the weight of the cloth the number of yards will be less, and you will be able to do it in a much less time?—Yes.

6226. And that any increase in the number of yards would force you to take a longer time?—Yes. The winches run at a certain speed, and if you have more, they take a longer time. It makes no difference as to the heaviness of the cloth; it depends upon the speed.

6227. Did I rightly understand you to say that you were averse to legislation which would limit the employment of women and children to certain hours between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.?—I am averse to legislation, in consequence of the irregularity of our work. We cannot commence at six o'clock and leave off at six; and if we could, I should not be partial to it, because it is only at certain times that we have work to do, and at other times we have not; and therefore we could not do our work regularly in consequence of the irregularity of the work given to us.

6228. If a Bill is brought in to legislate upon these trades, though it merely applied to women and children, would not it, in fact, apply to the whole of your

your staff?—Yes, it would, unless we employed adults instead of women and children.

6229. Would you consider it objectionable to prohibit by Act of Parliament the labour of women and children in stoves for more than eight hours, but without any limitation as to the period of the day when such employment was to take place?—We do not employ any women in the stoves. The cloth is hung from the top by a machine, and if the stove is hot, it cannot fall down; therefore, the stove is obliged to be cold when the cloth is hung, and the boys are only employed to spread out the bottom of the selvage.

6230. What is the heat of the stove?—We allow the air to go into it, and it is as cool as this room when they hang the cloth; and then, as soon as the cloth is dry, we open the windows, in order to take it down. We do not take it down inside the stove. The stove is never hot when the people are in it.

6231. Have you no women employed in the stove?—We have no women employed in the stove; we have men and boys.

6232. What is the age of those boys generally?—The paper that I have handed in gives the age of every boy that we have about the works.

6233. Do not you think that it would be right to limit their hours of labour to eight hours in a hot stove, in which the temperature ranges from 90 to 100 degrees?—I do not like them to work so long in a hot stove; but the stoves are not the same as they used to be. Mr. Hardcastle, in his evidence, said that there is a place upon one side of the stove where the people stand to put the cloth upon the frame and watch it as it goes along, and upon the other side to take it off; inside it is very hot; but the people are in a cool place. I do not consider that it is fair to say that they work in a hot stove.

6234. Does not that remark apply to one particular description of stove?—The stoves that we use are never hot when the boys and men have to work in them, in fact they could not stretch the cloth if it were hot; it would hold itself up in the air; and then they do not go in till it is quite dry; and, in fact, they need not go in at all.

6235. Are you acquainted with muslin bleaching?—We do not do any muslin bleaching ourselves; ours are shirtings.

6236. Are your workpeople bound in any way, or are they at liberty to go away whenever they do not like your employment?—They are not bound at all, if they want to go they may go, we give and take a fortnight's notice. If a man wants to go away, he gives a fortnight's notice; but if he wants very particularly to go at once, we do not insist upon the fortnight's notice, but let him go there and then, if he can better himself; in fact, when we began with our machinery to perform the bleaching which we used to do by manual labour, we informed the men of it, and we said to them, "You shall remain here till you can get another situation, and we will not insist upon your giving any notice when you have a situation," and the men all got situations.

John Slater, Esq., called in; and Examined.

6237. Mr. *Turner*.] I BELIEVE you are not now actually employed in the bleaching business?—No, I have been an operative and a master, and I am the owner of Little Bolton Bleach Works, and my sons carry on the trade.

6238. How long have you been in the trade?—Better than 40 years.

6239. Have you read or heard the evidence given by Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair, before this Committee?—I have both read and heard, and I generally coincide in it.

6240. How many people do you employ in your works?—Formerly, a great many more than we do now; we had a great many, from 200 to 300 formerly, but now 150 to 200; the proportion of boys and girls, and males and females will be much the same as in Mr. Hardcastle's and Mr. Blair's works.

6241. Do you employ any young persons under 11 years of age?—We may have done, but we have not done it knowingly.

6242. When you have done it, was it at your own wish or rather at the instigation of the parents who wanted to get the children to work?—The parents are always anxious to get their children into the works, and if they are a deserving family, we allow them to work at 10 years old, at parents' request.

6243. There has been evidence given to this Committee by two men of the name of Waring, father and son; now, as they were employed by you, I wish to ask you a few questions about those persons. John Waring says that he has known your young people to work for four days incessantly, without going home.

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Is that true?—It is possible that they may have worked long hours for four days, but that they worked without going home, I do not believe is true.*

6244. He says that has occurred often?—He might have had an opportunity of judging, but I have not.

6245. You do not contradict that evidence?—Not upon that point; I should think that it was not true, but if it was, it was very seldom indeed that we have admitted of these long hours.*

6246. He has also said that many people in your works were occasionally sick in consequence of the long hours; does your recollection serve you as to that?—That requires explanation; we allow persons to work upon the sick list, and as a substitute only in case of absence; if a man wanted to see his friends, he will report himself sick in consequence. And if they had been drinking too much, and had made themselves sick, they could employ other hands without their masters' knowledge, so that it was a convenient word to use, and not always correct.

6247. Since John Waring and his father have been with you, have you laid out a considerable sum of money in the improvement of machinery?—A very large amount.

6248. Has not the effect of that been to shorten the hours of labour?—It has both shortened the hours, and reduced the number of hands.

6249. Can you tell the Committee the average number of hours that your works have been in operation during the last two or three years?—Henry Waring, the father, was a remarkably good servant, and a very steady man; I have the days that he made with me, he certainly did make a long time, but he had easy employment.

6250. Are you speaking as to the average of the hours generally?—No; the hours are never continuous; they fluctuate and change very much according to the orders.

6251. John Waring says that he has a note, stating that the workpeople worked upon one occasion all Friday night and all Saturday until five o'clock in the afternoon; is that correct?—That is correct as far as one-third of the hands goes; the reason of it was this, our second large engine broke the piston, and it took five days to repair it; it was just before Whitsuntide, which is a general holiday in Bolton, working was suspended, and our hands wanted to work hard to get money to spend during the holidays; the engine being stopped had stopped one-third of the hands, and at the suggestion of the hands we allowed them to work the extra hours, and we also advanced money that they might enjoy themselves on a footing with those who had not been stopped work by the breakage.

6252. Have you known a large number of cases of families of young persons working from 16 to 18 hours a day for five months?—No; I have known them to work that time, but never continuously; and even when they were working long hours there were times when they could get rest in the works.

6253. Your opinion has been quoted by John Waring: he says, that on Saturday the 6th of June, he saw you, and you said that the Bill would do you no harm, and that you would not come up here to oppose the Bill. Did anything which he could construe into such an expression of opinion occur upon Saturday the 6th of June, or at any time?—I was up here on other business, standing outside in the lobby, and he came up to me and addressed me as his master, and I said I am here, but I am not come to oppose the Bill; I am neither come for nor against it; I am not come up upon that business at all, but for another business; and he then told me that which I did not know, that his party, who were promoting this measure, had not brought Mr. Tremenheere to our works; he said, that there was no occasion, we were so prepared with extra machinery that he did not bring him on that account. Had he come there he would have found young women such as you seldom see, for looking cheerful, and rosy, and well.

6254. Is it now your opinion that this is a good Bill, and that it is a desirable Bill to have passed?—For my own part, if the trade would back me, I would sooner give up business, and sell off, and stand still, than have it; it is my opinion that it will injure the workpeople too.

6255. Then, in fact, you are opposed to legislation?—I am strongly opposed to it, particularly inspectors; I object to the system of having inspectors, and teaching

* "Henry Waring never said that his wife worked for Mr. Slater nor Mr. Cocker, neither he said it was Bentley's. I said it was at Robert Heywood's, at Crescent, that I had seen those boys work four days and nights."

The above was written in the Committee Room by John Waring during Mr. Slater's examination, and given to him on leaving the chair.

teaching the men to look upon the master as their greatest enemy. Now, I like to be the master in my own work; when I was a working man with other masters I looked upon them with respect, and I like to be looked upon in the same way myself. It is teaching them to despise their masters, and to look upon every act as being unfair, and as if they were going to take some advantage over them. Waring has put words into my mouth; he said it would do my works no harm, and I said nothing; it is quite true that I was neither for nor against the Bill, because I never expected to be called upon to speak about it.

6256. You were not come to oppose the Bill nor to promote it?—No.

6257. But now, as a witness, you give it as your opinion to this Committee, that legislation upon this subject is unwise?—That is my opinion.

6258. Now about Henry Waring. Henry Waring says that 42 years ago, when he worked in the fields, he began at seven o'clock in the morning and finished at six o'clock; was there any grass bleaching at that period, to any extent?—I think that, generally, there might be a little there at times, laid out in the fields.

6259. It was quite exceptional 40 years ago?—I cannot say whether it was; it was not general.

6260. Forty years ago, were the hours of working in the bleach works longer than they are now?—That was before piecework came up. I have assumed that 40 years ago bleaching was done out of doors mostly, so that in the summer time they would work longer hours, and in the winter they could not; that is a long time ago.

6261. I am much distressed to hear the account given by Henry Waring, of the way in which his wife had been treated; he said that his wife had worked a week without having her stays off;* do you believe that ever occurred in your time?—Henry Waring's wife never was an engaged servant of mine; but in the first process, hands come in to do the work which was done by females; it is what we call stitch-marking. Henry Waring's wife never was a regular hand; but if a lot of cloth came in for stitching, she was employed, and she got them to take home. She was a woman of a grasping disposition, and she would work all day in the works, and get a lot at night to take home, and she might have done it unknown to my foreman.

* *See* John Waring's written statement herewith.

6262. Lord *Naas.*] Was that work paid by piecework?—Yes.

6263. Mr. *Turner.*] Is not it the same as with the shirt makers, who get piecework from the slop-sellers in London, and who may get what work they like?—We only paid her for the quantity of work she did.

6264. The impression I obtained was, Henry Waring's wife worked at the works for a week without being able to take her stays off; is that correct?—She never was employed in the work, except casually as a stitch-marker, and it was quite optional; she had her own way. I do not believe it is true.

6265. Is it an exaggeration, or otherwise, of Henry Waring when he says that he has worked 16 hours a day for 11 years?—He would work 16 hours a day upon several portions of the time, but not continuously.

6266. Mr. *Butt.*] Do you know where Cocker's Croft is?—I succeeded Mr. Cocker; the place went by the name of Cocker's Croft.

6267. Mr. *Turner.*] Is it called Cocker's Croft in your occupation?—In Mr. Cocker's day it was called Cocker's Croft; it was formerly called Little Bolton Bleach Works.

6268. Mr. *Butt.*] The evidence of Henry Waring is this: he was asked, "Were you foreman to Mr. Slater"? and he said, "No." Then he was asked, "Where were you foreman"? and he said, "At the same place, but under Mr. Cocker"?—He was under both; I found him at the works.

6269. Were the long hours of work he was exposed to during the time he was working under Mr. Cocker?—I think he would work much longer under me than under Mr. Cocker.

6270. Mr. *Turner.*] You say you have worked 40 years?—I have been that time in the trade.

6271. When did you succeed Mr. Cocker?—I succeeded Mr. Cocker in 1833.

6272. You found Waring there?—I found Waring there, and I left him there.

6273. Then you cannot speak to this fact at all?—I can only speak to the time

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that he worked for me; I have the number of days that he got when he worked with me.

6274. Mr. *Butt.*] Any contradiction that you have given to the evidence about his wife, you of course apply only to your own time?—In Mr. Cocker's days I do not suppose she was employed, nor was she ever a regular servant to me.

6275. Can you say that she did not work in this way in Mr. Cocker's time?—I never knew whether she did. My father built the place, and it is where I was born; I have always been attached to it, and I know a good deal about it.

6276. Mr. *Crook.*] You did not work there in Mr. Cocker's time?—Not at all.

6277. What Waring said in this statement, about his wife, occurred in Mr. Cocker's time; you cannot say anything about that?—I cannot answer for Mr. Cocker.

6278. Mr. *Turner.*] You do not consider that if such a thing has occurred 40 years ago, any such thing occurs now?—I may say, with regard to Mr. Blair's statement, that a man can earn two days or more in one; that I have made $5\frac{1}{2}$ days in one day.

6279. How is that?—Supposing I had 1 *s.* a hundred for calendering articles, pressing them, packing them, and making them ready for the market, and if I can do 1,000 of them in one day, it is 10*s.*

6280. In fact you reckon a day's work by the quantity of work done, and not by the number of the hours of work?—Yes; I should like to explain that a little further. Sometimes orders come in for 8, 10, 15, or 20, up to 50,000 pieces, if sent by a certain time; the merchant gets his order to buy a certain number of pieces, and he will go into the market and buy what he can, and he will send them out to bleach as quick as he can; and wants to bleach them by a certain date, in order to send them by a particular ship; he wants to have them of various qualities, and in order to complete the orders in the time, it puts us to inconvenience and expense. We are willing to oblige our customers, and therefore we work early and late to comply with their request; the bleacher has no option himself; he is not his own master, and must use every exertion to perform the orders in the time allowed.

6281. Henry Waring accounted to us when he was pressed as to sending his children to the works so young, by saying that he was obliged to do so because he had had great misfortunes in his family; he had lost a son at 20, a daughter at 27, a second at 15; can you give any reason to account in any way for that?—Henry Waring, as I have said, the whole time that he served me, never had a wrong word; he was a very steady man; he was foreman of his department, and employed his own family under himself; he was always very fond of getting money; he made them come to work early. I never compelled them, but he wanted them to do it himself; he did not send them to school as he ought to have done, but brought them to the works. Those who died did not work for me, to my recollection.

6282. He has stated that upon one occasion, when his daughter left your works to go to Mr. Meeking's, you threatened to discharge him because his daughter left your works; is that so?—That is since I gave up business; if it is so it must be by my sons. I asked them about the matter, but they did not recollect it. I think young women are so plentiful that there was no occasion for it; they had then 30 young women upon the works, and we are close to the modern mills, where there is good employment; still we have always plenty of young women.

6283. Did you ever know that he was compelled to send a young child at from seven to eight years old to work against his wish?—Not to my knowledge; it is possible if he was behindhand with his work, and the foreman saw it, he might say go and get some of your own family to help you; but I have no recollection of it.

6284. Is it the fact that the parents most frequently request that their children may be employed at an early age instead of sending them to school?—It is quite a pest to be troubled with them; if they were like Waring we should like to employ the family of a steady man; we should be backward to part with them, but I have no knowledge of employing any so young; but I think it is the wish of the parents rather than the masters that the children should be employed so early. I think it is stated that there were two or three deaths in his family; I do not know whether they have died in my works; I do not think that they were

regular

regular servants of mine, with the exception of one, and that one only a short time; I think they were not in my works.

6285. Lord *Naas.*] Could you tell the Committee how much wages you pay the women and children in the week?—It is all piecework, and they will never make two days alike; but a set work together.

6286. Is it all piecework?—It is all piecework, except that now by the new machines they work daywork in the bleaching department.

6287. How long have those machines been worked?—They have been worked about four or five years, not much longer.

6288. Previous to that were all the payments made to the women and children by piecework?—Every hand in our works worked at the trade at piecework.

6289. What is the proportion between the amount of wages that you pay to the women and children by piecework and by daywork?—Henry Waring was rated at 2 *s.* 8 *d.* a day; he could earn, and sometimes did earn, 6 *s.* and sometimes 7 *s.*, sometimes 8 *s.* or 9 *s.*, according to the quality of the work.

6290. What age is he?—He is now 65; the women and children will earn from 1 *s.* to 2 *s.* a day; sometimes, while they are learning, they will earn under 1 *s.*

6291. Is there a great difference between the earnings of different children of the same age?—Not great; we try to make all of the same active habits, and the same age get as nearly alike as possible.

6292. Are half the number of women and children that are employed working piecework?—More than two-thirds of the hands are working piecework.

6293. And the remainder are working by daywork?—Yes; a day is from six to six, with stoppages for meals.

6294. Do they ever work overwork at the machines?—Yes.

6295. Is that often the case?—Yes; it depends upon the supply and demand; they seldom work longer than nine o'clock now, and seldom before six in the morning.

6296. Taking one week with another, do the women and children work longest by piecework or with the machines?—There are women and children at the stitching machines for the bleaching department who seldom make overtime; we have women and young people in the making-up rooms on piecework, and they make much longer time, but not so long as formerly.

6297. Which work the most hours in the day, the women and children employed at machines, or at piecework?—Piecework.

6298. *Chairman.*] In general, may the Committee understand that you do not contradict Henry Waring's evidence?—I wish to exonerate my own character from any incorrect statement made by him.

6299. Is Mr. Joseph Slater your son?—He is my eldest son.

6300. Have you called his attention to the statement made by Henry Waring, that when he wished to recal his daughter, who was working at Mr. Meeking's, and Henry Waring said he could not do so, your son then said that he must take the consequences?—I called my son's attention to what we have seen in the papers.

6301. What did he say about it?—He said sometimes hasty words might be spoken, but that he had no recollection of ever making any threat to carry into force.

6302. May the Committee understand you, on behalf of your son, to give a contradiction to the statement so made by Henry Waring?—My son's impression is, that he was trying to make a false impression upon the Committee; he does not believe that such a thing occurred.

6303. You have read the statement, and know that it is a very detailed and lengthy statement of a conversation alleged to have been held?—We are so sensitive about taking other people's servants, it would stamp him with disgrace, and he would not do it.

6304. Does your son allege that he knows the conversation not to have taken place, or does he say that he has no recollection of such a conversation?—No; my son said that hasty words are sometimes spoken without an intention of carrying them out, but that he would be very backward to put such a threat into execution.

6305. Mr. *Butt.*] Is there a person of the name of William Isherwood in your employment?—I believe there is. I have been living away for the last seven years, and I am not very conversant with what has been going on.

6306. Ten years ago was he in your employ?—I believe that the name of the head man over the bleaching is William Isherwood, and if he is the person you

are alluding to, he came soon after the machines began, but had worked for me previously to machine bleaching.

6307. Was he the man who was examined before Mr. Tremenheere?—Mr. Tremenheere never came to Little Bolton Works.

6308. Then it cannot be the same that I am referring to?—No.

6309. Mr. *Crook.*] Can you state the number of women and young persons in your employ?—I have about the same proportion as Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair, according to the number we employ; but I am not in business now; my sons carry on the trade.

6310. Could you give the Committee any idea of the number of occasions during the last six months when you have had to work beyond six o'clock at night?—I cannot give it at all. I know that we have worked much longer; but being away from home I cannot speak to it.

6311. Can you give any evidence as to the extent of those pushes that occur now?—They are not so common as they used to be.

6312. Do you think the hours of labour at Little Bolton Bleach-works are more regular than they used to be?—I consider they are much more so, because the master is trying to make them so; it is their own interest to make them so.

6313. Have you observed any unfavourable result upon the workpeople in consequence of the more regular hours?—I never knew any before, and I have not observed any change. I always considered them very healthy.

6314. Do you consider that the workpeople are worse off with regular hours than they used to be with more irregular hours?—There is not so much night-work as formerly.

6315. And not so many extremely long days?—No.

6316. Do you conceive that any evil has resulted to the workpeople in consequence of having less occasion to work in the night?—I never considered it against their health when they worked long time; they were always fond of it.

6317. Can you speak to any evil that has resulted from their being relieved from the necessity of working long hours?—I have not seen any change, and I have never observed any evil.

6318. Have you had any complaints from the merchants in consequence of those modified hours of work?—Yes, many; we try to meet them; we are willing to comply with their requests.

6319. Can you bring to mind any case of inconvenience that has resulted from the modified hours of labour?—No; I have no data to go upon, being out of business.

6320. Do you think that if the hours of labour were modified to a fixed limit, not to exceed certain hours, evil would result from a further extension of that principle?—I think that we ought to be very careful to oblige our customers as far as we can in doing the goods at the time they wish, for there are so many that go out grey, that we have less to do. I am an advocate for bleaching, and not for the cloth going out grey, and therefore I want to comply with their requests; I encourage them all I can in our works. Before I left home I asked our workpeople whether they were for or against this Bill. During these last two years I have heard very little about it; they do not appear to care much about it. Whether they would speak candidly to me, I cannot say; they do not appear to think much about it now.

6321. Do you suppose from that that their impression was that their hours had been so regular, that it would not interfere much with them?—I think the main thing is, that they do not want to get less money; they would rather work long hours and get more money, than short time and get less.

6322. Do you consider that their indifference about the Bill shows that they do not think the Bill would reduce their wages?—They said that they did not think much about it now.

6323. If they had an impression that the Bill would reduce their wages, would not you suppose that they would have cared more about it?—My own opinion is that they do not care about it either way.

6324. Mr. *Butt.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, that your objection to the Bill was principally as to the annoyance and vexation likely to be caused by having the inspectors?—That weighs very heavily with me.

6325. Am I right in saying that your objection is not so much founded upon the obligation to stop work at a certain hour?—I want freedom in trade; I do not want to be interfered with in any way; the masters will care for their servants, and make it worth their while to serve them well without a Bill.

6326. Your

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6326. Your principal objection is to interference of any kind?—I am much against the Bill.

6327. Would you have any objection to stopping voluntarily at six o'clock every evening?—I cannot do that; I have a great capital laid out, and I want to use it judiciously.

6328. Mr. *Crook*.] Are you not a member of the Master Bleachers' Association?—I am not in business; I am only owner.

6329. If you were a member of that association, and if the masters agreed by a majority not to work beyond six o'clock at night, would you have any objection to fall in with the arrangement?—I would join the masters in doing anything that would promote the welfare of our trade; but I could not agree to stopping so early as six o'clock, because we have days together without full work.

Mr. *William Morris*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. Morris*.

6330. Mr. *Turner*.] ARE you the manager of a portion of the works of Mr. John Ainsworth, near Bolton?—Yes.

6331. How long have you been at those works?—It would be about 40 years.

6332. During that time, how many weeks have you been off work from illness yourself?—I believe about three weeks, and that was at a time when we had the scarlet fever in the house; I believe all the family had it at that time, or at least all the children.

6333. How long has your father been on the ground, and how many weeks has he been sick during that time?—I believe it is about six weeks.

6334. How long has he been upon the ground?—He has been upon the ground 66 years.

6335. We have had some evidence given by the Rev. William Milton, to the effect that 600 or 700 women and children were employed in the Halliwell bleach-works; can you tell us exactly how many men, women, and children are employed there?—There are 574 I believe altogether, men, women, and children; I have a list which will tell you the number of men, women, and children respectively; it also gives the sum of the whole (*producing the same*); it is a sort of summary of the people employed and of their ages, and things of that sort; it is merely to show the particulars. There are 574 altogether, namely, 382 men, 89 women and girls, and 47 boys under 18.

6336. How many children under 11 years of age have you?—There is one I believe, a boy, It is under very peculiar circumstances that he was taken in; we do not like to take them in under 11; his mother was a widow, and wished to have him taken in; he is a fine boy, quite as fine a boy as one boy whom we have at the same sort of work who is 13 years old.

6337. What sort of employment do you give to him?—He is employed to straighten the cloth when hung in the drying stove, when the man hangs them.

6338. It is not very laborious work?—No, it is very easy work

6339. Is the Rev. William Milton, the late incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, correct in saying, in answer to Question 1406, that they work as young as from 9 to 10?—We have none now under 11 but that one; it might have been the case; I would not say that it was not so at that time.

6340. Are the persons employed by Mr. Ainsworth respectable in their appearance and intelligent, and do they remain a long time in his employment?—I know that they are respectable in appearance, and they have stopped a long time in his works. I have a summary which I think will give the Committee an idea of it.

6341. Will you hand that in?—(*The same was handed in*).

6342. In your opinion, do they prefer bleach-works to cotton-mills, where regular hours are worked according to the Act of Parliament?—They do, decidedly.

6343. Do they consider themselves as a class superior to the factory hands?—I believe they do.

6344. Is not it a sort of indication of their being better off that they consider themselves rather aristocratic among the workpeople?—They think the work better. We have plenty of applications for employment when we have a vacancy.

6345. Do you ever find the women and children leaving the bleach-works to work

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work short time in the mills?—I do not know of any one instance in which that has been the case.

6346. Is the contrary the case, that they come from the mills to seek employment at the bleach-works?—We have several cases of that sort, and one in particular. A girl was taken in six or eight months since, who came on account of not being able to stand the work in the factories; it did not agree with her health, and she preferred coming to our works. She got in and she is working there now. I asked her why she left, as she had less wages when she came in than she had in the mill, and she said it was in consequence of the mill not agreeing with her, and that she had found herself much better since.

6347. Did she get less wages when she came to the bleach-works from the mill in consequence of having to learn the trade?—Yes, I think she was about 16 years of age; she was rather older than we generally take them, and she got 4 *s.* when she came, because she had to learn the work.

6348. How long has she been with you?—Six or eight months. Since that she has been raised to 5 *s.* per week. She has got to know the work, and can work nearly as well as the others. We have a scale of wages, which range from 2 *s.* 6*d.* to 8 *s.*, according to age for females.

6349. To what rate of wages may she probably arrive at the age of 20?—She may get to 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* It depends upon the work that she gets to. They are moved on from one department to another until they get to what we consider a woman's work. The women's wages are from 7 *s.* to 8 *s.* That is what we call a day's wages.

6350. Is the system of piecework carried on at Mr. Ainsworth's works?—It is mostly piecework.

6351. Is it therefore the interest of the workpeople as much as that of the master to work, while there is work, within moderation?—Certainly; we never find any difficulty in that.

6352. Can you tell us the average of hours worked in Mr. Ainsworth's works during the year?—For real work it will average something like 11 or 12 hours a day.

6353. Is that the number of working hours, not reckoning meals?—Yes. I am speaking of busy times.

6354. Do you mean that includes two hours for meals, or that they are all working hours?—They will work 11 hours, at any rate, upon the average.

6355. Is that much less than it was 30 years ago, and has the improvement been gradual?—It was more many years back; 25 or 30 years since they did work longer; but it has not been so for many years, I should think.

6356. A witness before this Committee (Mr. Price), in answer 1834, seemed to wish to lead us to suppose that this improvement has been owing to the agitation; is his insinuation grounded upon fact?—It may be in some measure since the agitation began, but the improvement began before that; at least before ever I knew of it; I know that there had been a difference before that time.

6357. We have heard a good deal about pushes; I suppose you know what they are?—I know something about them.

6358. At the time when you consider yourselves under the pressure of a push what are the hours?—Now the hours are from six till nine, or they may be ten sometimes; but now in those places where females work, particularly those which Mr. Price made allusion to, I scarcely think they ever work after nine; there may be often nights when they work an hour longer. Samuel Price says, in answer to Question 1829, that he has worked 15 or 16 hours a day through the year; now I am able to prove, that he did not work more than 10½ hours per day of an average for five years before he left the works.

6359. I believe you are subject to what are called slacks?—Yes.

6360. Those are times when they have not work enough to do?—Yes.

6361. How slack are you occasionally?—Sometimes we are for a week or a fortnight; they do not get half the amount of the wages they would for full time; sometimes we are for a month or two very slack.

6362. During the hours that the workpeople are on the ground are there inevitably periods when they are unemployed besides the hours for meals?—Yes, they are frequently waiting for half an hour; sometimes a quarter of an hour.

6363. At such periods are they allowed, to some extent, to arrange their own hours of work?—The arrangement of the hours is this; the head man of each room fixes the time for his own set to attend in the morning. But at any time when they are both busy and slack of work there, the girls and women very often bring

bring their own work from home, and employ themselves in that or in anything that they have to do for themselves; and of course the boys go and play, or do as they like; that is, when they have a few minutes in the day-time at liberty; but in reference to the head man of each room, they calculate the time of attending in the morning by the time they expect to have the work ready for the department. Sometimes they attend at six, sometimes seven, and probably sometimes they will fix for after breakfast, eight o'clock, or half-past.

6364. Will you give the Committee your candid and honest opinion, as a man knowing this kind of work, whether you believe the bleaching operatives are generally, as a class, healthy and strong, or otherwise?—They are. My candid opinion is that they are healthy and strong; and I may here remark that I do not think there is any other business connected with manufacturing, or with business generally, that is more healthy, or perhaps as healthy, as bleachworks.

6365. The young women have been a good deal spoken of as being sickly; are the girls employed about your works generally healthy looking as compared with the factory hands?—They are more healthy looking than the factory hands are generally.

6366. There have been some insinuations with regard to the morals in bleachworks; are the young women employed in your works as well conducted and as moral and respectable in their conduct as the ordinary class of workpeople?—I should say that there are none more so. I believe that, as far as one part of morality goes, we have not had a case of anyone having an illegitimate child for the last six years.

6367. Do you think that as regards morals, and as regards health, legislation is not necessary for the bleaching population?—I do not think it is at all. I believe the morals and general health of the people would not be at all improved by legislative interference.

6368. Have you prepared any information as to the average earnings of the men, women, and children in your works?—It would be a difficult matter to make a selection, but I should say that if I made returns of that, and of the amount of a day's wages throughout the year; there are sets; each department has its set, and those sets have so much to do for a day's work. Their wages are all put together, and of course it makes a dividend to divide the work by. Suppose they take 600 pieces a day for the day's wages, when they have done 600 pieces they have made their wages, and whatever they do more than that they are paid for in proportion.

6368*. A certain quantity of work is considered a day?—Yes.

6369. How many hours' actual work, in Mr. Ainsworth's works, are required to earn what they call a day's wages?—It varies; some may go to seven hours a day, some under that, and some may go as far as eight hours, and if more, in proportion.

6370. In all instances, at the end of eight hours they would be considered to have earned a day's wages?—I should say, take it upon the average, that they earn a day's wages in seven hours.

6371. When those hours are exceeded are they paid extra in proportion, and when they work less do they receive less in proportion?—Of course if they do not make their wages they are not paid them; if they are stated at 600 pieces a day, and they only make 500, they are paid accordingly.

6372. I suppose you have been an operative?—Yes.

6373. Have you gone through every stage in the works?—Yes; and I may say that I have been rather privileged upon that account.

6374. When you yourself were formerly employed as an operative, were you desirous to make up for short days by working long hours when you could get work?—Always; and I believe every man is, that wishes to be respectable, and pay his way. Any man who wishes to get on in the world, there is no doubt, will never be backward in doing that. There has been a great deal said about females working overtime; now, I can prove an instance of two who had offered to work after they had done their own work. They were two girls in the works; one works in the packing room, and the other works in the mangling work.

6375. Do you think that your operatives as a class sympathise very much in this agitation for short hours?—I believe not. If the Committee will allow me, I will give them this instance with reference to women working overtime. I do not think any evidence has been properly brought before this Committee upon this point, and I think it is a very important one. With respect to the

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girls working long hours, the question was put to them by Mr. Tremenheere whether they would rather work short hours or longer hours, or if they would rather be under the Factory Act. Now it seems with few exceptions that they would rather be under the Act, and be forced to give over at a certain time; but I find from my own experience that it is not so. This case refers to the work which Mr. Slater had mentioned, of putting marks upon goods by the needle; we have had a good many of that sort of late. All our markers were busy in that sort of work; this girl in the mangling work, and another in the packing-room, I know had done about five or six o'clock, and I asked them if they had any objection to do this work. I said they should be paid to themselves, and they said, oh, yes, they would go; they seemed quite pleased to do it, and those two women went and got their tea, and came back again and worked till dark. We do not light up the works; we have not been burning gas there for about three months now; and I said, "What time are you coming in the morning?" they were coming at seven or eight o'clock; I said, "If you can come an hour sooner, I should be glad." They were there at five o'clock in the morning. Now that proves to me that it is not in consequence of the work being so laborious, but that they have not an interest to work above a certain time. Girls or a boy who live in the house with their parents have no interest in working above a certain time, because they get fed and clothed whether they work overtime or not, and if when they work longer the extra wages were given to them, I think it would alter the case. It is not that the work does them injury, but from what they stated to Mr. Tremenheere they wished to give over sooner, because they had no personal interest in working later.

6376. When you receive work from the merchant to bleach, is it one of the conditions that the work shall be done within a certain period?—In most cases it is; it is not so as a rule, but in most cases it is.

6377. Is there some space of time in which it is considered right and proper that you should return the work?—They expect that the bleacher will return it in a week or 10 days, but often in the orders less time than that is allowed.

6378. Do you think that in many cases the merchant would have considerable difficulty in extending the time; is he often compelled to require you to return the work in a certain period?—I do not think that in most cases the merchant has the power of doing it, for he is dependent upon other merchants abroad; I do not think it is in his power to alter the time; if he has an order to get, and he can get it at the price stated, he has to send it by a certain ship.

6379. As a rule do you think that the merchants who send cloth to you are often compelled to give you the shortest possible time, because they want to buy at the most advantageous period in the market, and to meet the vessel at the time that it is expected to sail?—No doubt; often they may have orders which they have not an opportunity to buy till the market changes.

6380. Are the pushes to which you are subject occasionally regulated by your own desire, or is it not rather forced upon you by the demands of the merchant?—Certainly; we have no power over it; if we could have them regularly we could arrange better.

6381. The Committee have it in evidence, in answer to Question 2471, from the Honourable Member for Bolton, who is one of your customers, that he bleaches largely with Mr. Ainsworth?—He does bleach with us.

6382. Does he ever push you to execute your work in a short time, and thus cause a little extra work?—I believe he does; I can produce written orders of theirs to that effect if required; but I should not consider Mr. Crook to bleach largely with us; he is what I should call one of our small men.

6383. Have you any orders of his to that effect?—Yes; at the present time we have some of Mr. Crook's orders in our hands; but I will prove to you what the amount of his orders is, and which we consider very small; from July 1856 to 1857 I find that his account with us is only about 400*l.*; now that we consider extremely little, and scarcely worth our notice.

6384. He says you have had 600 or 700 pieces of his, which you have kept 51 days; is that so?—It is, probably; but that may be in consequence of our not thinking it worth our while to throw other orders aside which were of greater consequence to us to attend to them. I can only answer him that way.

6385. I suppose you have clamping frames?—We have.

6386. Are they worked by adult males entirely?—They are.

6387. Have you any women at the stoves?—No.

6388. Are

6388. Are the drying-stoves, in what we may call the shirting department, oppressive to the men or boys working in them?—No, they are not; when the workmen go into them there is no heat in them; they do the work before ever they turn the steam in; and after they have put the whole quantity in they come out and wait until the cloths are dry, and then they turn the steam out and the place is cool while they have any work to do in there.

6389. The Temple Works have been referred to; what number of bleachers were formerly employed at the Temple Works?—It is one portion of the works of which I have the management; formerly there were about 17 or 18 men in the bleaching department.

6390. How many are there now?—There are three men now and four boys since we established the machines.

6391. When you are busy how long do these men and boys work in the day?—They do not often work after eight o'clock, or at any rate half-past eight; they never work long hours.

6392. Is the work of the boys continuous?—No, it is not. They are very often playing and become troublesome. In fact sometimes they run off and are not to be found when the work is ready for them; they are never so tired to prevent them playing when they have an opportunity.

6393. Would it be convenient to stop the bleaching process at any hour, as is the case with the cotton spinning?—I do not see that it is practicable.

6394. Would injurious consequences ensue?—I should like just to explain that as briefly as possible to the Committee, how the restriction of hours would interfere with that particular process. Supposing that we had been slack for a week, or for three or four days, and after that time we received a great quantity of cloth, say three or four waggon loads; we are anxious to get them into work as soon as we can, not only that they may get the work, but that they may get into the places where it is slack, and by a little pushing in the dressing work, and getting as many as we can the first day into the bleaching, the goods get forwarded by being pushed a little in the first instance, and they get into the places which are empty sooner. By working two or three hours after six o'clock and so on, we are enabled to get the work forwarded, so that those places that were empty before them, as it were, and that have to take them after them, will be the sooner employed with them. Now if we are restricted in the hours it would make the difficulty much more, because we should not be employed, for this reason, that we have girls that stitch them in the first onset, and then we have boys in the bleachworks; so that according to the Act we could not do that, and consequently it would make it still worse with respect to the other departments that have to receive the goods after them than it is now without an Act.

6395. Are you of opinion from your long experience in bleaching, supposing that there is legislation, such as may be contemplated, that the commission agents and merchants in Manchester will ever be able to send you cloth regularly so as to keep you employed ten and a half hours per day?—I think it impossible, from the experience I have had in the working of the departments, for I have been in all of them; I first went to the mechanics' shop, and after that I have been in almost all the departments, and for 11 years I have been manager there; and from the information and from the experience which I have had myself, I do not think that it is practicable to do that; I do not think it is in their power.

6396. Have you, in your experience, heard or known many instances in which females and boys have been incapacitated by the length of hours that they have worked in bleach-works?—I do not know that I have; I believe that the girls and boys are quite up to their work; it is a sort of work that is very easy, and they are quite able to do the work they have to do.

6397. The Committee have been told by medical men that it is only strong and robust constitutions that are hardy enough to bear the work of bleach-works; is that your opinion?—My opinion with reference to that is, that I believe that a weakly person is more likely to be strengthened by performing the process of bleaching than anything else; there is ventilation and every convenience, and I think they are more likely to be strengthened by it than otherwise.

6398. As a test of the opinion of the people at the Halliwell works, do they subscribe largely to the support of the delegates in this agitation?—I do not think they subscribe at all, and have not done for a long time.

6399. What is your opinion of the last meeting of the operatives at Bolton; supposed

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supposed to be in favour of legislative interference, of which Mr. Crook was chairman?—I was not there myself; but from the information I had I understood it was a very poor affair; there were people there of course; the place was about half full, but not of the class that would be considered to be interested in the affair.

6400. Do you think that adult women should be prohibited from doing work suitable for women after six o'clock in the evening?—I should say they ought not, certainly, from the reasons I stated before to Question 6375.

6401. Is there any trades union among the operative bleachers?—No; at least I do not know that there is.

6402. Have you had many turn-outs among the operative bleachers lately?—I am not aware of any for the last 30 years or more; I think there has been none since 1821. There was a general turn-out then, but I believe there has been none since; I am not aware of any.

6403. Do you think that the master-bleachers generally are in favour of legislation?—I should say decidedly not; as a body, there may be one or two exceptions.

6404. Are there any instances in the Halliwell works of the workpeople working on Sunday?—Not at all. We do not allow them to do work of any kind on Sunday; I do not think there is any case that I can remember.

6405. Have you no recollection of any case?—I have no recollection of any case; I am certain that they do not.

6406. Are repairs ever done on Sunday in order to enable the men to come to work on Monday morning?—Not in any one instance; we never do that under any circumstances.

6407. Would it be expensive for a bleacher to extend his works, supposing each department to be well proportioned at the present time?—Certainly; it would be very expensive, all kinds of work connected with bleaching are very expensive; particularly the mechanical works.

6408. Do you remember a man of the name of Samuel Price being employed at Halliwell?—Yes.

6409. He says that there are no cotton-mills convenient to Halliwell; is that so?—That is not so; there are four mills more convenient to the most populous part of Halliwell than Mr. Ainsworth's work.

6410. Can you state any mills that are conveniently situated to you?—Yes; there are four cotton-mills about five minutes' walk from the most populous part of Halliwell.

6411. Will you name some in the parish?—I believe there are some mills not above ten minutes' walk from Mr. Ainsworth's works at Halliwell. I will state the names of those belonging to the mills: Mr. J. Stones, Messrs. Greenhalgh & Shaw, Cannon & Haslam, and Sutcliffe & Co. There are two mills in the district of St. Paul's, and the others just out of it.

6412. Is Messrs. Gardner's and Bailey's mill, in the district of St. Paul's, one that you refer to?—No; that mill is nearly a mile from the boundary.

6413. How far are the nearest mills from St. Paul's church?—About seven minutes' walk, the four mills referred to above.

6414. Why was Samuel Price discharged from Mr. Ainsworth's works?—I was the person who discharged him; it was because he did not attend to orders; he was the head of the room he was in, and he did not attend to the orders given; and to clear himself from being blamed upon the subject he used to tell lies, and denied it; of course I could not have that confidence that there ought to be in a man who was in a responsible situation, and of course I told him he would have to leave.

6415. Are the Halliwell bleach-works in the district of St. Paul's?—There is a small portion called the Temple Works, and only a small portion; not above one-sixth part of the works in that parish, and there are not above one-seventh of the hands employed there; the others are all in St. Peter's District.

6416. I think the Rev. William Milton has told us that one part of the room is for sleeping, and that the young men and young women lie down together in that room; is that true?—It is nothing of the sort, and it seems to be casting a great odium upon both the masters and the workpeople if it were true, but it certainly is not the case, and it never was so.

6417. Have the females ceased to work all night?—They have, a long time since.

6418. Do you know two young women of the name of Greenhalgh, referred to by Mr. Milton?—I knew something about them, but I never knew much of them, for they were not in my department at all.

6419. After being many years at Halliwell, will you give the Committee an opinion whether Mr. Ainsworth bears the character given him by the Rev. William Milton, of being a very arbitrary man?—I should not extend it to saying that he is an arbitrary man; he may be what you may call a disciplinarian, and I leave it to any gentleman here that is in business, to say whether it is not requisite in all particulars to be strict with his hands, particularly in a large concern like his.

6420. Has not he generally, for a long period, been considered a liberal and benevolent man, charitable to all those about him, whether they are his work-people, or whether they reside within the range of his influence?—He is; there is no exception to his liberality.

6421. Is not he very desirous and careful for the improvement, both moral and intellectual, of those over whom he has any influence?—I do not think there is a man more so, so far as I know.

6422. Generally, what is the general state of education among the people employed at the Halliwell Bleach-works?—I should say it is good. I will just state that all the responsible situations are filled by men who have been educated in Halliwell, with one exception, who have been upwards of 20 years there.

6423. Has not Mr. Ainsworth built schools and churches for their benefit?—Yes.

6424. And used all the means that lay in his possession, that he could possibly devise himself or that have been suggested to him, to improve their character?—He has to a very great extent.

6425. What is your opinion of the effect of an inspector coming continuously about your works?—As far as we are concerned, I should say that it would be a very awkward and a very injurious thing to the whole concern. The works extend three quarters of a mile at least along the river; they are not exactly alongside of the river, but they go from the Capital to the Temple, and there are I do not know how many doors, but they are not far off 20, for the people to go to their work; our works are not inside a yard, as most cotton-mills are; on that account I think it would be the very worst thing, and, as a matter of business, I think it would be very injurious both to the masters and to the men; I do not think it practicable myself, and I never have done.

6426. *Chairman.*] I think you told the Committee that you look upon the bleaching labour as so healthy that you would recommend a weakly person to adopt it?—Certainly.

6427. Do you make that statement without any reference to the number of hours the person should be employed in the business?—Yes, as we are generally working.

6428. We have had cases mentioned of persons working 60 hours continuously without taking their clothes off; would you go so far as to recommend that?—No, certainly not.

6429. You do not mean to?—Certainly not.

6430. How much would you propose for a weakly person adopting the occupation?—I would propose it, taking into consideration the quantity of hours that we work, and that we have worked for a long time; I should take that as the line.

6431. Could you specify for what number of hours a weakly person would find it better to work in the bleaching business?—I should say that females would work 13 or 14 hours a day with less injury to themselves than they could work in a cotton-mill for 10½ or 11 hours. I should say that they could work 13 or 14 hours in the bleach-works with less injury to their health than they could work in a cotton-mill 10½ hours.

6432. Beyond that period do you think it would disturb their health?—Yes.

6433. In your own works I think you said that you do not work by gaslight?—In the department that I have the management of I ordered the gas to be turned off, I think some time in April; I do not exactly know the date; in fact, it was turned off in the beginning of April in that part of the works.

6434. In other parts of the works do they now work by gaslight?—Yes, I believe they do.

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6435. Is there any part of Mr. Ainsworth's establishment at the present moment which is working beyond nine o'clock?—I believe not, where females work.

6436. Can you say for how long they have ceased to work after nine o'clock?—I do not know; but I know that it has been so for some months; there may have been exceptions where some of the workmen were going on till 10 or 11 o'clock; I will not positively say that there are not.

6437. You told the Committee that you did not think the people who are employed by Mr. Ainsworth objected to long hours?—From the information I have gathered I do not think they do; by your permission I will just remark on this: I remember at one time when they were busy, and made some complaints, so I said "I will get you more hands to assist," but they said, "No, we will try to work it out ourselves, as we shall have too many hands when we get slacker of work.

6438. Have you never heard any complaints from any young people so employed?—Not of late.

6439. Have you heard such complaints formerly?—Formerly, a long time ago; I could not possibly say how long it was.

6440. What was the nature of those complaints?—I do not know that there were any particular complaints. It appears that some of them, in their evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, said that their feet were sore, and their legs ached, or something of the sort; but I believe that since that time some of them have taken to wear slippers, and they have not experienced sore feet since then; they used to wear clogs before that time, I believe, most of them, with wooden bottoms.

6441. About three years ago complaints were made?—Yes, that would be about the time that Mr. Tremenheere was there.

6442. Since that time slippers have been introduced?—By some; I think some that I have under me stated that they found a great advantage by wearing slippers. I have not made a point of asking anything of the sort, but I know that there are two or three who have worn slippers in the works.

6443. Mr. *Crook.*] You were manager of the mill and the Temple Works?—Yes.

6444. At which, out of the 574 hands, 100 are employed under you?—Yes, about 100.

6445. Are you aware that that class of bleaching differs in its character from the bleaching of the Capital?—It does.

6446. There is a different rate of hours, and the employment of labour differs to some extent?—Of course it does; that is what I already stated, that the generality of the classes that I have had to do with have not worked more than 10½ hours per day, and the others may have worked 11, or some 12, upon the average.

6447. Is that description of work subject to more frequent pushes than the other?—I do not think there is much difference in that respect; we both bleach for the same markets; it is only a different sort of work; because those which are bleached at the top of the works, and those which are bleached below, no doubt may go very often into the same ship.

6448. Is it true now that women and boys under 18 are working from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 at night?—I believe that there are none that work that time at present.

6449. This is the evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by Mary Pendlebury; does she work under you?—No.

6450. Then I apprehend that you will not be able to speak to the truth of her evidence?—I can speak to the facts, very probably.

6451. She states that the hours in your works were at that time generally from seven till 10 and 11?—It might be, but I believe that that was a long time back; they work less hours now; they do not work after nine o'clock, nor boys either, I believe.

6452. Have you any means of judging whether this evidence is true, with regard to the opinion of the women and girls in the employment of Mr. Ainsworth; she says: "If the Parliament was to pass a law for the girls to begin at six and leave off at six, I should like it; though I should only earn a day's wage instead of a day and a half or two days." "All the girls say they would like to give over at six and start at six"?—All the girls do not say so. I know that there was one who said that if this Act passed, and they had to come at six o'clock, she would not come, and she told Mr. Tremenheere so; Mary Ann Ashworth told him

him in the answer to question 163, but this he minds to leave out altogether. There is a decided dislike on the part of the girls to coming at any particular time.

6453. Have you any reason to think that Mary Pendlebury has altered her opinion about it?—I do not know whether she has.

6454. Is she still the head maker-up?—I think she has got married.

6455. You are not aware whether she is still working as head maker-up?—No, I do not know.

6456. Are you at all aware whether any of the women or young persons in Mr. Ainsworth's works have ever subscribed to the agitation?—I am not aware that they have; my opinion is that they have not.

6457. Do you think that any notice would be taken of it by Mr. Ainsworth if he was aware that any of the workpeople were subscribing to the agitation?—He was aware of it at one time, and he did not do anything about it.

6458. He has not taken any measures to stop it, to your knowledge?—Not that I am aware of; I think not.

6459. Since you went into the bleach-works, have the hours of labour been more regular or less regular?—There may have been a little improvement; the employment of machinery may have caused it to be so. It is my opinion that there is an improvement in that respect.

6460. Do you think that to have more regular hours is an improvement?—Certainly; there is no doubt about it, if we could have them.

6461. Do not you think there has been less nightwork, and more regular daywork, since you first knew the trade?—Yes, decidedly so.

6462. Are you aware that any inconvenience has resulted from that change, either to the workpeople, or the masters, or the merchants?—I think the reason of that has been, from the improvements that have taken place, probably, in the bleach-works; but I do not think it has arisen from anything in the way of business, or from the orders being less fluctuating than they were.

6463. Do you think it has arisen from better arrangements in the bleach-works?—To a certain extent it has.

6464. Either by machinery or by the better hours of labour by the masters?—It was more from the improvements in the machinery.

6465. Has there been any attempt to ameliorate the hours of labour by Mr. Ainsworth?—Mr. Ainsworth has done all that he could.

6466. Has he succeeded in making the hours less injurious than they formerly were?—He does not interfere at all in the management of the work; he leaves it entirely to me, and I am put there to do it in my own department.

6467. I understood you to say that he had made some efforts to modify the evils of the long-hour system?—He may have told his manager to do that; but as to interfering with any arrangements that we have, he never does; he recommends what he thinks best.

6468. Has he by any means made the hours of labour at his works more regular?—I am quite certain that Mr. Ainsworth is as anxious as any other man to do all he can to make it more regular.

6469. Has he succeeded in doing anything of that benevolent character?—I do not know.

6470. Have there been any results of that kind?—I could not point out the particulars; but I know that they are not working such long hours as they were; but I attribute it in a great measure to the different arrangements, and the improvements in machinery, more particularly than anything else.

6471. As far as that goes, do you observe any inconvenience that results to the trade of the merchant in consequence of this alteration?—There are many inconveniences that still occur.

6472. Have you experienced yourself, in consequence of the better arrangements, any complaints by the merchants?—I do not understand what you mean.

6473. Has there been any inconvenience that has given any ground of complaint from the merchants upon that account?—We think that they complain sometimes when they have no reason to complain, because we do what we can for them.

6474. Had you any complaints from the merchants arising from the better arrangements with regard to the hours of labour, or have they been the occasion of any delays to the merchants in the delivery of their goods?—Certainly not.

Veneris, 24° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Cheetham.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Kirk.	

LORD JOHN MANNERS IN THE CHAIR.

Stephen Blair, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

Stephen Blair, Esq. 24 July 1857.

6475. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any statement which you wish to make to the Committee?—In the latter part of my examination the other day, the honourable Member for Youghal wanted to know the hours we had worked from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855. I have here the detail of each day's work, which makes an average of 8½ hours a day of working; I was to give the working hours from that time, which I have done; from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855; I wrote home for it, and it has been sent to me.

6476. Will you read it, and hand it in to the Committee.—(*The same was handed in.*)

Vide Appendix.

John Rylands, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Rylands, Esq.

6477. Mr. *Kirk.*] ARE you a merchant and a warehouseman in Manchester?—Yes.

6478. Have you at any time in your life had anything to do with bleaching works and dye works?—I have for a long period of time.

6479. From about what time to about what time?—I should think for more than 30 years.

6480. You were not merely interested in the profits of those works, but you took an active part in their management?—I have done so.

6481. And therefore you are necessarily well acquainted with those different branches of business?—Perfectly so.

6482. Have you now any interest in bleaching or dye works?—None whatever.

6483. When you had an interest in them, will you describe the mode in which bleachers and dyers received goods to be bleached or dyed?—Persons were appointed to visit the different establishments in Manchester, and to collect what they thought proper to give them for bleaching, dyeing, or finishing.

6484. When sending to Manchester for goods, did your town-man exercise any choice whether you would receive goods or refuse goods from any of your ordinary customers?—He received everything that was offered to him which he had a reasonable expectation that the works could finish in the express time.

6485. Did he attempt to make any choice as to time or terms?—Very rarely; there might be some particular cases, some order of which he saw the impossibility of complying with the terms, or something that he deemed the works were not suitable to finish.

6486. But whenever there was a reasonable demand he complied with it?—Of course he did.

6487. Had not the merchants who gave you those goods to dye or bleach, generally done so from the orders of correspondents?—From the demands from their business, either by orders or finishing for stock, as the case might be.

6488. When

6488. When the parties came to them, or wrote to them, were not they obliged either to obey the order, if they thought it likely that they could get it finished in time, or to refuse it?—Certainly.

6489. In your position, as a merchant and warehouseman, are you often obliged to decline orders from want of time?—Every day.

6490. Do you not exercise a great amount of judgment as to whether you are likely to get those orders completed within the time desired?—Whenever we do exercise our own judgment it is at our own risk; orders come to us, coupled with conditions, and if we see a reasonable chance of complying with those conditions we proceed; but if anything occurs so that the conditions are not complied with, it is at our own risk. But there is a general feeling of lenity between the person ordering, ourselves, and the finishers; there is allowance made for any accidents that may arise.

6491. Does not it frequently occur that parties come to purchase goods or to offer you an order, and you require almost immediately to replace the goods sold, or to fulfil that order?—Very frequently.

6492. How in that case do you manage?—We decline it.

6493. Supposing there is a reasonable time?—We should undertake a great amount of risk ourselves, and most likely our correspondent would, when the circumstance was stated to him, show that forbearance that is necessary between the parties, in the uncertainty that there is attending every finishing transaction, with which I am perfectly familiar, and know the difficulties of it; and therefore perhaps exercise a greater degree of forbearance than those who have not a knowledge of the operations.

6494. Under those circumstances, and with this knowledge, do you think that restricting the hours of labour would be beneficial or prejudicial to the employers or the employed?—I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, as decidedly as it is possible to speak, that it would be nothing but prejudicial, and nothing but injurious, to every party interested in the whole of the transactions.

6495. Will you be kind enough to explain how, in the first instance, it would be prejudicial as regards the employed?—The bleacher, or finisher, erects works and puts up machinery to do whatever kind of work may come to him, and the continual variations in the requirements of his customers make it quite uncertain what quantity of work he may receive on any day at any time. I have known, for instance, cloth that in one operation has required 60 hours, owing to a change in the fashion, has been done in six; now, how can any bleacher or dyer prepare for that, unless he has a large quantity of machinery, and unless he is permitted to use that machinery according to his judgment unfettered?

6496. Supposing that the operation required 60 hours this year, and six the next season or the next year, would not it follow that if he was equal to do the 60 hours, he must have a large portion or his machinery standing idle when he only required six?—Unquestionably he would, and that would render his business, in the present severe competition, unprofitable.

6497. In the second place, will you explain, how restricting the hours of labour would be prejudicial to the employers?—If a certain number of persons can do a certain amount of work, and if that work is increased one-half, and they are limited in the hours of labour, the number of persons employed would necessarily have to be increased one-half; and therefore, there would be one-half more to be kept, and one-half more to be idle, when, by a decrease in the work, it came down one-half. I believe that scarcely any bleach-work or dye-work in existence has the same amount of work two successive weeks.

6498. There is a constant fluctuation?—There is an ebb and flow.

6499. Arising from what cause?—The wants of the community; the caprice of the merchant; the ideas that he has about holding stock or not holding stock; the rise and fall of the material, and a thousand causes, are continually influencing it.

6500. It has been held here by certain parties, that if there was a limitation to the hours of labour, it would have a tendency to steady the market, and that merchants would be more cautious about taking orders, and more cautious in their requirements at the hands of the bleachers; is that practicable?—It is not only not practicable, but it is the opposite of the fact. With my knowledge of the case, I should say, that if I said so I was insane.

6501. This brings me to the third point you have mentioned, and that is, whether

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whether the merchant and the trade generally, foreign and domestic, would be benefited or injured by limiting the hours of labour in bleaching and dye works; is that the case?—As I said at first, the merchant and his customers, the bleacher and his workman, all would be prejudiced. We hold a very large stock, and yet there is not a day that we can execute all the orders that come to us. And if the parties that supply us now, and there are a great number, were placed under restriction, our difficulties would be increased to such a degree in the present competition, that I fear our profits would suffer by having to keep a much larger stock than we now do.

6502. It is pretty generally said that you hold a stock exceeding 200,000 *l.* in value; is that the case?—It is the fact.

6503. I believe, with that large capital invested in stock, you are every day obliged to refuse orders for different articles, are you not?—To a very great amount daily.

6504. Could you give the Committee an idea of how many orders you refuse daily or weekly?—Yesterday, when I knew that I was coming up here, I made an inquiry, and the person who has the care of that department said that he should think we had 500 in the course of one week.

6505. Do you not also keep stocks of goods of a particular quality, and in a certain stage of finish at particular seasons of the year waiting orders, as you are not able to tell exactly the finish until those orders come to you?—We do; in one branch that I have in my mind, I should think fully one-half of the stock is kept in a state that there would be at least 12 to 24 hours' work to be done upon goods that took three weeks or a month to bring to that state, that 12 to 24 hours will finish them out; I should think, perhaps, that one-half of that stock is kept in that state. The same remark applies in a more limited degree to other branches; but that is the one I have most especially in my mind.

6506. Could you, consistently with your interest, finish those until you know exactly the style of finish that will be required?—We have to know, not only the shades of colours, but the kind of finish; and to effect that the finisher has to put on every hand he can employ, to get them in in the time required.

6507. Have you seen Mr. Barbour's evidence?—I have, this morning.

6508. Do you agree with him?—No.

6509. In what do you disagree with him?—With regard to his having stated that it was quite practicable for bleachers and finishers to do certain things. I differ in opinion from him; I believe that to be impossible which he states to be possible; he says that orders would be given more promptly; no man retains an order any time beyond the necessities of the case; he cannot speed his orders, he gives them out as soon as he gets them. I observe also, that he speaks about the children being jaded, and says that being worked unfits them for school. To any opinion respecting children under 12 years of age, I should quite agree. No child under 12 years of age should be employed at all; but after 12 years of age they should be left perfectly unfettered by any interference whatever; I have found that in my experience. I can state that, for now nearly 40 years, I have been an employer, and that in the whole of that period I have not known one person, really and truly above the age of 12 years, injured by overwork; I believe I have myself made longer hours than any person whom I have employed. I was delicate when I was 25 years of age, and now I am in good health. The best workpeople that we have at this moment are those who have acquired knowledge and done the greatest amount of labour; I believe that continuous employment is favourable to their moral improvement, and to their attainment of knowledge; the opposite is stated, but I believe it is contrary to truth. We have had the experience in Manchester of a half holiday on Saturday, which I believe has been stated to have worked well; I believe it has not.

6510. Will you kindly state in what respect it has not worked well?—I never had so much anxiety, or had to exercise such strict surveillance in my life over young men as I have at present; we have been more fortunate than many other employers; there are continuous instances of fraud, and young men feloniously employing the capital of their employers, and they are getting more frequent.

6511. Is it your opinion that the half holiday now enjoyed is spent, not for their mental or moral improvement, but in dissipation or folly?—It is, and their expenses are thereby increased; and consequently, their wages not being equal to their

their expenses, they resort to fraud. In the present state of the relations between the employed and employers, arising from causes which others present could, perhaps explain, better than I can, the employer rather needs protection than the employed; the power of combination among the employed, owing to the diffusion of education and the continued influence exercised upon their minds by various parties, has now become notorious to every person who observes the position of those people; they are taught to know what their employers' duties are, and not what are their own, and I fear the consequences to this country, if we proceed at the speed we are now proceeding for the next 20 years. I know for a fact, that the finishers are now leaving the country to finish articles abroad, and we only maintain our supremacy by a slight circumstance, and that is chiefly the finishing; if they are restricted, to a certainty those men will go to where they are not, and finish those goods, and our trade in them will be at an end. I allude chiefly to German woollens; but it is not to them alone that the remark should be confined.

6512. With reference to the time during which persons in your warehouse are employed, at what time do you begin in the morning, and at what time do you leave off at night, generally?—Nominally we work from 8 in the morning till 7 in the evening, but we never close at one hour, except it is very late; we close not at any hour, but we close when the goods are all packed that have been sold in the day.

6513. Would it be possible to limit you to particular hours?—No, not unless we could limit the sales to a certain amount; there are never two days when the sales are alike, and there never will be; the orders are uncertain, and the sales also: we do not know even in the morning what we have to do in the day.

6514. Is it your rule to pack before the men leave the warehouse all that has been sold during the day?—It is, if practicable.

6515. To what time does that system oblige your people to remain?—I cannot speak quite correctly, but I should say about 9 or 10 o'clock; it is left to their own option, of the packers themselves, and their judgment says, that if they get them done at night they have not them to do to-morrow.

6516. Is that general in Manchester?—It is with every one, I should think.

6517. Is it universal?—I should think so.

6518. And it is your opinion that if there was a limitation to that it would be prejudicial to the trade?—Very much so.

6519. Do you think that it would be fair to limit the hours in a bleacher's warehouse, if you in your own warehouse in Manchester are left free?—By no means; all ought to be served alike; but all would be served very badly if they were served in that way.

6520. Who do you mean by all?—I mean that every class and every body ought to be served alike; if there is a law to restrict one person, there ought to be a law to restrict another. I think that when particular trades are selected, from whatever alleged reasons they may be selected (which I believe, as far as I have seen or heard any of the reasons, are fictitious and groundless), it is a great hardship to the trade, because it is quite unnecessary, and it is unjust; if it is for the good of society that labour should be restricted to a certain amount, then I think that all labour should be restricted.

6521. Farm labour?—Of course, if labour be a curse; but I believe it is a blessing; and I believe it is a dispensation of Providence, that the more people are employed the more moral they are, and the better they are as far as my experience goes. It is just the opposite to some of the popular statements that are now made.

6522. If it be true that you do not know in the morning who may walk into your warehouse and make purchases of any number of goods, and you pack the goods for that party before the men leave, as a general rule do not you think that the rule ought to apply to the bleacher who sends his goods into the town of Manchester, to supply the wants of his customers in like manner?—I cannot see, I do not know any difference.

6523. Is it your feeling that a rule that would apply to the one, would apply to the other?—It is, decidedly so.

6524. Mr. *Turner*.] The Committee have had the evidence of Mr. Barbour, of Manchester, whom we all know to be a benevolent man, and who has given his opinion that it would be practicable to have more regular hours in bleach-works;

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so far as you are aware, has Mr. Barbour had much practical experience in carrying on works of any kind?—I am not aware that he has had any; he is a commission merchant.

6525. Does Mr. Barbour deal with you?—He does deal with us.

6526. He orders goods from you?—Yes.

6527. Sometimes those goods have to be finished for him, possibly?—Of course, if we have not them in stock they have to be finished.

6528. Does Mr. Barbour, like other commission merchants in Manchester, sometimes press you to have them ready for him at a particular time?—It is ordinarily the custom, when an order is sent, to fix a time for delivery.

6529. And do not you make exertions to meet his wishes?—We must do so, and we do do so.

6530. Why do you suppose Mr. Barbour, as a commission merchant, is obliged to press you to get the goods ready by a certain time?—Because he is pressed by his correspondents; he is their servant, and we are his.

6531. Is not he engaged in foreign orders?—Chiefly.

6532. Has not he to meet the sailing of particular vessels that go to particular markets?—Unquestionably.

6533. He has given it as his opinion, that if he was not ready for one vessel he might be ready for the next, which probably might sail after the next fortnight; as far as you are aware, are there vessels sailing actually every fortnight to all parts of the world?—It depends upon what country it is.

6534. If it were to the United States it might be so, but if he had an order for some remote part of the coast of Africa, it might not be the case?—I have no doubt that all delay is an evil.

6535. Mr. Barbour is a large commission warehouseman in Manchester for the execution of foreign orders; has he, like all other commission merchants, frequently been in the habit of keeping his people late at night in packing?—Report used to say that he did as much as others.

6536. Has it been the custom of late years for many of the large warehousemen in Manchester, such as Mr. Pender, to erect machinery in their warehouses for finishing goods themselves?—I do not know any thing of the internal management of Mr. Pender's warehouse; I know him to be a large shipper.

6537. You do not know it as the fact, that the large warehousemen connected with foreign orders are putting up machinery for finishing their goods themselves?—The trade has for some time been going that way; parties are endeavouring to do as much as they can within themselves.

6538. Do not packing, callendering, and making-up establishments in Manchester, employ the same kind of hands as the bleachers do in similar operations?—If they callender, it is so, but I am not aware of any merchants callendering. They may have making-up only, which does not require the same power; but I would rather not speak of what I do not know.

6539. You said that you were afraid of the tendency to idleness and dissipation in consequence of the hours of limitation; from your experience, are the men who, like yourself and many others in Manchester, gain a respectable position in society, and progress in trade, and are ornaments to society in which they live, those who have been diligent and industrious, and have never shrunk from work?—The only difference between the lower and the middle classes arises from their temperance and industry.

6540. Is not there fully as much opportunity in your district and in any other district, agricultural and manufacturing, for an industrious man to raise himself from a low position in society, by steady working and industrious improvement of his talents, among the poor as among the rich?—I believe there is, except the advantage that capital gives in the start.

6541. But he must be willing to throw himself steadily to work, and be industrious?—Yes, undoubtedly.

6542. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee how many women and children you employed when you were a bleacher and dyer?—I could not speak from memory; it is about six or seven years since I discontinued my connexion, and the number employed was very various; it would be a mere guess.

6543. Can you give the Committee any idea as to the age at which you took children into your work?—No, I cannot; for that was never inquired into if they were able to do their work; but I can say that a more healthy set of people there was not in any occupation than those that we employed.

6544. You

6544. You have told us that your custom, when you were a bleacher, was to refuse any orders which were given to you unless a reasonable time was allowed for their execution; will you have the kindness to explain to the Committee what you meant by a reasonable time?—The person who received the goods, when a lot was offered to him, would know by past experience what quantity the works that he represented could do, and if he thought he could do them, of course he took them in; he would be the judge of that. When a lot of goods is shown to him, for instance, 100 pieces, he would be told, "We shall want these goods back at a certain time;" and he would say, "I am afraid we cannot do them in that time; would it do in a few days more?" and perhaps they would say, "Yes, it will;" and then of course he will take them; but if he thought he could not do them in that time, he would say, "I would rather not take them."

6545. In considering whether the time allowed to him was reasonable or not, did he take into consideration the hours of work which would have to be exacted from your workpeople, in order to complete that particular order?—He would merely consider what hours we had been accustomed to work.

6546. In the definition of a reasonable time, would you include the hours which the women and children engaged in your works would have to labour?—Most of our work for some time has been done by what is called piece-work; they are paid by the quantity they do. Now, a case came under my knowledge very recently, where the work is chiefly done by women. They asked me whether there would be any objection to their working late, and the answer was "No;" they might work late; they got that work done by Friday night, and on Saturday they took a holiday. As a rule, those that work by piece are rather inclined to long hours than to short hours; they would rather work straight on to a certain point, and then have a holiday of their own selection.

6547. Did I rightly understand you to say, that as far as your own opinion went, you did not think that children under 12 years of age ought to be employed in bleaching works?—In no kind of operation.

6548. Did not you also say that you had not known people above 12 years of age injured by any amount of work?—I never knew such a case. There are three evils that the working classes are liable to, which are overlooked by the parties professing to advocate their interests; they are, their ignorance of domestic affairs, their idleness, and their intemperance; those are the fruitful sources of distress and their diseases.

6549. Having laid down the rule that children ought not to work at any trade or profession under 12 years of age, do you object to a restriction which should prevent children working in the bleach-works and dye works under 12 years of age?—No; I would have a provision that they should work nowhere before they are 12 years of age. I would make it illegal to employ them in any close confinement.

6550. With respect to your present occupation as a merchant, did I rightly understand you to say that you have to decline orders every day?—Every day.

6551. Can you tell us at all what becomes of those orders that you are obliged to decline?—A different result would occur to almost every one. Perhaps I may illustrate it in this way: we receive an order, and we write back to the parties that we have not got the goods, but we expect them in a little time. In most cases, we say we shall send the goods unless we hear from you to the contrary. And sometimes they reply that the order must be cancelled, and sometimes that we may send it. So that every order may not meet the same fate.

6552. Confining your attention to those orders which are definitely refused by you, what becomes of them?—They go elsewhere.

6553. Is it within your knowledge that there is any very great difficulty in their going eleswhere and being executed?—It will depend whether the order was for export or for the home trade. If for the home trade, there are half-a-dozen houses similar to ourselves to whom they would go, if the parties who gave the order thought they could get them sooner. But shipping every order would very likely have to be separately considered, and would be dealt with differently according to its nature.

6554. Are the Committee to understand that as far as the home demand is concerned there would not be any difficulty in orders rejected by one commission merchant being executed by another?—The difficulty would not be of the mag-

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nitude that it would be in the export trade, because the work would have to wait till we could do it, or they would go to somebody else.

6555. I understood you to say that when you found yourself compelled in that way to deline an order, the difficulty which would seem to spring up between you and your correspondent was, generally speaking, removed by a certain lenity which existed between the merchants and their correspondents; was that so?—Yes; when, for instance, we (that is, the concern I am in) have been dealing with a party for perhaps 20 years, there is a feeling of confidence which has grown up in that time, and we state that we expect to be able to deliver their order, perhaps in a fortnight. Rather than change their connexion they would wait a fortnight for us, when, perhaps they would only wait a week for another party. The lenity is from old association.

6556. Can you give the Committee any good reason why you should not extend to the bleacher the same lenity which your correspondent extends to you?—We do extend it to them; in fact, practically, I am always very lenient towards the bleachers; I never recollect having charged 1 *d.* for delay.

6557. That being so, where is the insuperable difficulty in some restriction being placed upon the hours which the bleacher should work?—From the reasons that I have given before; I believe that he would be trammeled in his business, and so interfered with, that he would be obliged to get better prices; and, in fact, I have no doubt that it would prevent a great many improvements which are continually required to be made in the machinery for finishing at a great expense. It would have an effect something like the old excise laws upon some of the articles that were produced, such as soap or glass; if they were limited, they would not have that free use of their property they have a right to have.

6558. Is the Committee to understand from your last answer that the difficulty which a bleacher would experience in consequence of a restriction being placed upon the hours of work, would be met by him by a slightly increased price?—He would require an increase of price as an indemnity; but the inconveniences would be great, and his business would be very much interfered with. In fact, I have the greatest apprehension; I fear very much for the consequences of such a measure. I have not the slightest interest in it except as a merchant.

6559. Among the reasons which induced you to entertain that apprehension, may we reckon your belief that any restriction of that sort would hinder improvements in the various processes of bleaching?—Yes; it would interfere very much with them; and I believe it would destroy that happy feeling that now exists between employers and employed. I have seen it in another branch of work, in which by Act of Parliament a third party would interfere, and produce the very worst results; whenever the law intervenes, all mutual arrangements cease.

6560. Will you confine yourself to the check that it would impose upon mechanical improvement; will you explain how that would arise?—I think it would follow, because the Act would limit the means of spending money; the bleacher is always inclined to be spending money in improvements.

6561. Are you aware that evidence has been given by some of the master bleachers before this Committee, to the effect that if these restrictions were imposed they would necessarily set to work to invent new machinery, and would get over the difficulty in that way?—I have not the slightest knowledge of that evidence; I have not read a line; but it is the invariable result, that employers, when labour is increased in value, try to make up for it by the improvement of mechanical power.

6562. Then is the answer you gave, when you said that you thought the effect would be to check improvement in machinery, quite the answer that you would wish to give?—It is so in one view of the question, for the reason I have stated. The manufacturers are always anxious to make improvements in their business.

6563. Did I rightly understand you to say, that you think new inventions have shortened very much the time which was formerly necessary for certain bleaching operations, and to give us an instance of goods which formerly required 60 hours being now bleached in six?—No; I was simply speaking of the mechanical operations upon them; and I mentioned as an instance, that some goods might be finished in a shorter time than goods that required to be highly finished. The more highly they have to be finished, the longer they require under the machinery for finishing them.

6564. You

6564. You told the Committee that your decided opinion is, that if any restriction was placed upon the operation of the bleaching business, that the skilled artisans, and so forth, would go to other countries, and the trade would depart from England?—That would be the ultimate result, I have no doubt; but the immediate result in one branch to which I have referred I believe would be certain; we have only the supremacy now in the finishing, and let us lose that and we lose the trade altogether.

6565. Have not you lived a great many years in Manchester, and its immediate neighbourhood?—Yes.

6566. Do you recollect the arguments that were used against the Factory Act about foreign competition?—Yes, I do.

6567. Do you recollect whether it was ever said, by those opposed to factory legislation, that the inevitable result would be to drive the cotton factories to other countries?—I am sorry to say that the factory trade cannot be worse than it is, whatever has been the cause. I believe that the factory law has been the great impediment to the factory business.

6568. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Can you state whether the consumption of cotton upon the continent of Europe is greater now than it was then?—I believe it is increasing in a much greater ratio than it is here; and I believe that they are flourishing, and we are decaying. I believe that, as a cotton-spinning country, we are going downwards.

6569. *Chairman.*] Do you remember first, whether that argument was made use of; and secondly, whether those prophecies have been realised?—The Factory Bill passed was not the Bill proposed. There was a compromise. If it had been as first proposed, the consequences would have been almost fatal. There was a compromise, and the hours were not so short as were at first intended. But still I do think that the interference has been prejudicial; but to what degree or extent I am not able to say.

6570. Are you aware what are, by law, the actual hours per week in the factories at this moment for women and young children?—Though I am employing nearly 2,000 hands, I really do not know the hours worked under the factory law.

6571. Would you be surprised to know that there is no great difference, if any difference at all, between the actual hours at present now in force, and the hours originally passed in the Factory Act?—I know that their hours are longer; but I cannot tell the difference.

6572. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I think you do not take any active part in the management of your mills?—I take a great interest in them; but I have such a dislike to the factory law that I have not looked at a book connected with it.

6573. *Chairman.*] As to the moral effect of this alleged injurious interference between employers and employed; do you know whether the relation between the employed and the employers in the manufacturing businesses is more or less comfortable than it was previous to the passing of the Factory Act?—I can scarcely say, but I think less comfortable.

6574. You have told the Committee that, in your opinion, the tendency of events is to throw all the power into the hands of the employed, and you think that the time will soon come when there must be some sort of protection afforded to employers; is that so?—Yes.

6575. In what kind of way do you propose that protection should be afforded to the employers?—I would not propose anything, but repeal all laws that have been made for a particular class; I would leave them alone.

6576. If it is likely that the employed will have it all their own way before very long, do not you think that, as a matter of prudence on the part of the employers, it might be wise to concede some of their requirements now, and in this particular bleaching business, for instance, to settle what appears to be a long disputed question by legislation?—I do not believe they want it; I do not believe they want a limitation of their hours by Act of Parliament.

6577. Upon what authority would you say that?—A general impression derived from my intercourse with them.

6578. Did you acquire that impression during your intercourse with the working people in the bleaching business?—I acquired it as an employer; it is many years since then. I think the real impression on the minds of the operatives is, that if their hours are reduced their wages will not be reduced; that is the delusion that they have been under, and that is the only reason why they have ever joined in

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the movement for legislative interference, and this has been the staple argument of agitators.

6579. If your intercourse with the bleaching branch has ceased for five years, how can you give the Committee this information as to the reason why the work-people are in favour of legislation?—I see them every day; they come into the warehouse for work, and I can converse with them, and with their employers.

6580. How do you get at your conviction of the reasons which induced the working people to advocate legislation?—I know, as a general principle, that that has been the fact invariably with all whom I ever have conversed with at any time, and therefore I expect that it is in full force now.

6581. Are the Committee to understand that this impression is not the result of any of your own conversations upon the subject with the bleaching workers?—Not as their employer.

6582. Can you say that, in your present capacity, you have conversed with the working people upon this subject?—I do not recollect any particular or special conversation; but I have, within the last three or four years, come across some of them who had been old servants of my own; in fact, I am employing some of them in other parts of our concern.

6583. Have you had conversations with those whom you are employing?—I could not refer to any special or particular conversation.

6584. Is it not a general impression that you have upon your own mind that such probably would be the reason which induces the working bleachers to wish for the Bill?—I have no moral doubt of it.

6585. Mr. *Turner*.] You have been asked whether the same forebodings were not entertained with regard to the legislation for mills which are now entertained with regard to the bleach-works, and whether they have been fulfilled; will you allow me to ask you whether the circumstances of the work in a cotton mill may not be divided into three general items; the capital employed, the wages paid, and the raw material and other articles introduced to the mill?—I divide them into four; I make the incidental expenses the fourth item.

6586. Does not the foreigner who competes with us get his cotton pretty nearly as cheap as we can?—There is no doubt about that now.

6587. And is not his labour cheaper?—Yes.

6588. And does not he get many other articles that he consumes in his mill on equally favourable terms?—Yes.

6589. Then, as to the item of capital; supposing the capital of an English millowner can only be employed for 10½ hours per day, and that abroad there is no limitation to the labour, must not the English millowner necessarily charge a higher rate per hour for the employment of his capital than the foreign manufacturer does?—Unquestionably.

6590. Then is not the tendency of this resort to legislation for factory hours in this country, that the foreigner has now an advantage in competition which he did not possess before?—I know it to be the fact, that the mills are doing well at this present time on the Continent.

6591. Are you sufficiently well acquainted with the subject to know that the proportion of cotton consumed out of this country, as compared with what is consumed in this country, is very much larger in 1857 than it was 10 or 12 years ago?—I could not speak correctly without figures; but I believe that it is very much larger, and that it is increasing in a greater proportion than ours.

6592. Therefore, though they are behind us in quantity, they are getting a tendency to overtake us, and to come upon a level with us?—Undoubtedly.

6593. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Are you aware that in consequence of the high price of material at the present moment, any number of the mills are working short hours in the district about Manchester?—I have not any very correct knowledge of the quantity of people out of employ; I heard it stated that there were as many as 30,000 looms standing.

6594. Have you heard of any similar statement at the present moment, with regard to the Continent of Europe?—Not a word, but the opposite; they are doing well.

6595. Is the just conclusion to be drawn from that fact, that the pressure of the high price of the raw material does not tell upon the Continent to the extent that it does in this country?—It does not tell, because they get so much higher prices. I can tell the Committee of one instance in which a person who was

manager

manager at some works, said, that he could sell an article at 6½ *d.* a yard, which we are selling at 3*d.*; and he said, that in the country, the people would not wait until the pieces were finished, but they cut out a few yards; he was the manager of the mill.

6596. Mr. *Turner.*] In what country was that?—In Spain.

6597. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us why they get so much better prices for their goods in Spain than we do?—I am afraid that is beyond my province.

6598. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Are you not aware that there is an almost prohibitory tariff?—In Spain, I believe it is actually prohibitory, except by smuggling.

6599. *Chairman.*] Are not the prohibitions rendered nugatory by the systematic smuggling?—I believe that there is a general practice of smuggling.

6600. Mr. *Turner.*] Is it not the fact, that the Americans and the Germans and the Swiss are meeting us with the same goods in neutral markets, and are underselling us?—I cannot speak from my own knowledge about it; we do not export any ourselves; I have heard so.

6601. Mr. *Cobbett.*] You said, some little time ago, that you thought that the main thing that was overlooked by those who professed to serve the working-people were these three, their ignorance of domestic affairs, their idleness, and their intemperance; do not you think that their ignorance of domestic affairs in the manufacturing district has arisen very much from the long hours that they work in the factories; do not you think that that has a tendency to prevent young people from becoming acquainted with the routine of domestic affairs?—It would theoretically appear to be so; but I think, practically, there is that desire to improve their position, and that desire for knowledge among the working classes, that I think if they were left alone they would soon be in a much better position than they are.

6602. Do you mean to say, that if there had never been any Factory Act passed they would have been less ignorant, less idle, and less intemperate than they are now?—I will not attribute all the evil to the Factory Act; but I think that if the Factory Act had said that no child under 12 years of age was to go to a mill, and the other people had been left unfettered, we should have a much better state of things than we have.

6603. The regulation that you would propose would have been to prevent young people from going into a factory until they were 12 years of age?—Yes.

6604. Do you think the Act that should have rendered that compulsory would have been a proper Act?—Yes, I think it would have met a good many of the complaints which have been made.

6605. You are not decisive against all legislation upon the subject?—I am decidedly against all legislation for any particular branch of any kind; legislation should be universal.

6606. Do you think all working people should be included in it?—All should be included, no matter whether they were in a milliner's shop or a factory.

6607. Supposing it to be practicable to do it in one instance, and impracticable to do it in another, would not you do it in the practicable instance, rather than not have the good which might be derived from it?—I would not do violence to a great principle for the sake of any particular exceptions.

6608. You will not put it partially for the extension?—No, I should avoid any partial legislation.

6609. Supposing you found that in a factory the young people, going in at a very early age, long before, according to your own opinion they ought to go, worked long hours so as to be detrimental to their health, and you did not find that to be universally the case with regard to other trades, would not you apply legislation to the factories?—The question is a suppositious case.

6610. Do you deny that the young people were taken into the factories and much damaged in their health?—I think that the statements with respect to those cases were much exaggerated.

6611. Evidence has been given before this Committee by Mr. Brownbill, a medical gentleman from Salford, who stated that if you go into the Salford workhouse at the present moment, you will there find persons who have been worked in factories before the recent factory legislation, and who are objects of pity on account of their distorted limbs; do you think that that gentleman said that which was erroneous?—He was under a mistake, in my opinion, and for this reason: I think that he attributes to the factory what arose from other causes,

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namely, the children going to the factory without proper food and clothing; and when anything went amiss, their being put under improper treatment; I think they suffered most from quackery, and want of proper food.

6612. Do you think that they suffered from the doctor more than from the factories?—Yes, from quacks. I mean unauthorised practitioners.

6613. Have you been at all in the habit of going among the working people who work in the factories since the time when the Ten Hours Bill was passed, in 1847; have you visited their cottages at all, and spoken with them upon the subject, and asked them whether they liked the present regulation better than the old one?—I have never visited them with that object.

6614. Do not you think that before the Ten Hours Bill was passed, young women were much in the habit of putting out their clothes to be made, they being incompetent to make them, or not having time to make them; and that, since the Ten Hours Bill has passed, they have found the time, and have made themselves competent, and do needlework now which they could not do then?—No; I do not believe a word of it.

6615. I hold in my hand a letter which was put into my hands by Mr. Samuel Fielding, the son of the late Mr. John Fielding, who took a great interest in the matter of the Ten Hours Bill since the Ten Hours Bill came into operation, accompanied by a prospectus of the factory operatives of Bolton and its vicinity (*the same being read to the Witness.*) Supposing that document to be genuine, does not it modify your opinion with regard to the beneficial operation of the Factory Act, and do not you think that shows that the young people. having an abridgment of the hours of their work, immediately began to learn those domestic habits that you say they are wanting in?—I would not shut my ears to evidence; but I still believe that much better results, even if that were true, and much more solid results, would have occurred had there been no Ten Hours Bill.

[*The Letter to Mr. Fielding and the Prospectus were read as follows:*]

Dear Sir,

The purport of this note is to beg your acceptance of the enclosed prospectus, the perusal of which will show you that the factory workers of Bolton are endeavouring to convince the public of the beneficial results of your much-lamented father's labours.

Yours most affectionately,

The Factory Workers Committee.

James Greenhalgh, Secretary.

No. 17, Bank View, Mill Hill, Little Bolton-le-Moors.

To the Factory Operatives of Bolton and its Vicinity.

Prospectus of the Contemplated Bazaar.

The committee for the protection of the Factories Act, and for the getting up a bazaar for the exhibition and sale of such articles as factory workers are capable of producing in their leisure hours, beg most respectfully to remind you that, in one of their former circulars, it was intimated that a bazaar would be got up, to be held about Midsummer of the present year, and that a prospectus would be sent out as early as possible, which would state the nature and plan of such bazaar; but in consequence of unforeseen circumstances such prospectus has been delayed until the present time.

The committee, however, have great pleasure in announcing that they are now making every exertion in their power, according to previous arrangements, to carry out so desirable an object, and by these exertions a great many articles are at the present time in a state of active preparation by the factory workers for the intended bazaar. The committee take this opportunity of inviting all factory workers, both old and young, male and female, to participate in the good work, and would urge upon them to enter upon it in a spirit of emulation, and an earnest desire to cultivate the talents with which they have been endowed, which would show to a demonstration to the ten hours' advocates and the public, that the labour bestowed in obtaining the present boon of shorter hours of labour has not been in vain.

The Committee call your particular attention to the following prospectus of the bazaar. In the first place, it will be open and accessible to all factory-workers, to exhibit specimens of their handiwork. The articles to consist of the following descriptions:—

1st. Plain sewing, such as the making of shirts, chemises, plain dresses, stays, soft bonnets, and hoods for infants.

2d. Specimens of good mending, such as patching shirts, petticoats, darning stockings, and other little matters which, must be considered as essential qualifications for insuring good household economy, and above all, domestic happiness.

3d. Fancy needlework of all descriptions will be exhibited, as being both useful and ornamental.

4th. Knitting

4th. Knitting, netting, and crochet work of every variety, even the knitting of garters by the younger girls, in order to give all an opportunity of showing their habits of industry.

5th. Specimens of penmanship in all its different forms and branches.

6th. Arithmetic in all its branches, which may be shown on sheets of paper.

7th. Drawings and paintings of all sorts will be encouraged, and it is expected there will be a few specimens to exhibit.

8th. Miscellaneous articles of all sorts that can be made by the fireside by the unlearned, such as birdcages, or any little article to show habits of industry. It is also expected that those who delight in cultivating gardens will exhibit such fruits of their industry as may be in season at the time of the exhibition.

It is intended to have notes attached to every article exhibited, stating the names of the producers, whether they have been self-taught or not; or, if the articles have been wrought at a night school, then the name of the school, also the name of the master or mistress under whom they have been instructed, and the time spent in working the article.

The committee wish it to be understood that they intend to remunerate the producer of every article brought to the exhibition, according to the estimated value of such article. They also intend to give prizes to the producers of the superior articles, in accordance with the utility of such article. The extent of the prizes will be regulated according to the amount of funds at the disposal of the committee. Every producer will have the privilege of preventing the sale of the article he may have produced, and such article will be returned at the closing of the exhibition.

The committee earnestly desire the co-operation of all factory workers in carrying out the above undertaking, which will most assuredly tend to elevate the moral and social character of all factory operatives. It is intended that the bazaar shall be held at the Baths Assembly-rooms on some convenient day in the month of September next, previous to which due notice will be given. The committee also contemplate having a tea party at the same time, to which all factory workers and their friends will be invited. The committee wish it to be understood that they are all working men in factories, and that they are devoting their leisure time to an endeavour to improve the character of the class to which they belong; and they most respectfully solicit the assistance of those kind friends who are ever ready to help in all philanthropic movements.

Donations of the smallest amount sent to the Chronicle Office will be thankfully received and accounted for; and all communications sent to Mr. James Suttle's, Bird-i'th'-Hand, Bank-street, Bolton, will be duly acknowledged.

Committee-room, 26 April 1852.

N.B.—The committee meet every Thursday night, at seven o'clock, at the Bird-i'th' Hand.

6616. Do you believe that if there had been no abridgment of the hours of labour by statute, they would have been abridged by masters and the workpeople?—They would have been mutually and more beneficially arranged by the masters and the workpeople.

6617. Have not those attempts to abridge the hours of work been frequently made?—There has not been any attempt made on the part of the men, except to raise wages, and to shorten the hours; but practically to receive the same wages.

6618. Have not there been agreements entered into and regularly signed by the masters in Manchester to abridge the hours of labour, and have not they invariably been broken?—There have been cases in extreme depression of trade when it was desired that they should act together; but it is of no use, unless it is to their interest to keep it.

6619. Do not you know that in good times the masters, yielding to the desire of the workpeople to have the hours of labour shortened, have upon various occasions entered into and signed agreements to abridge the hours of labour?—I am not aware of any such agreement.

6620. You were asked whether there had not been very confident predictions, at the time when the Ten Hours Bill was before Parliament, that it would drive the cotton factories out of the country; did I rightly understand you to say that it has to a certain extent done that?—I say that it has had a prejudicial effect; but to what extent I am not prepared to say. I beg to refer to a remark I made before (Question 6569.) The Act was at first for 11 hours for 12 months; and then for 10 hours, but afterwards altered to 10½ hours; a compromise was made.

6621. Do not you measure machinery by horse-power?—Yes.

6622. Do not you believe that a greater amount of horse-power was brought into operation in the cotton factories year by year, since the Ten Hours Bill was passed, than was brought into operation year by year before the Ten Hours Bill was passed?—I am not able to speak as to that from memory.

6623. Do you live at Manchester?—Yes, in the neighbourhood.

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6624. When you go through Lancashire and Yorkshire and Stockport on towards Preston, do not you see an extraordinary number of new factories starting up in all directions?—I have seen a great deal of bricks and mortar.

6625. Do not you know that those buildings are designed for factories?—I should say that if the cotton trade were in a healthy state there ought to be one-third more. That is not a proof of present prosperity; mills were arranged to be built when trade was good, but unfortunately during the two years they require to complete, trade has changed, and many have been ruined. If, during prosperity the spinner might have produced a greater quantity, he would have made capital wherewith to renew his machinery, but he was not permitted by Act of Parliament; and the foreigner, not being able to get British yarns, had to produce them himself, and was thus transformed from a customer into a rival for the purchase of cotton.

6626. Where would the cotton come from?—We should get plenty of cotton if we had a healthy trade.

The Reverend *Arthur Packer*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *A. Packer*.

6627. Mr. *Turner*.] I BELIEVE you are a Clergyman of the Established Church?—Yes, I am.

6628. Where do you at present reside?—At St Paul's, Halliwell.

6629. How long have you been the incumbent of St Paul's, Halliwell?—About two years and a half.

6630. I believe that the bleaching works of Mr. Ainsworth, with respect to which the Reverend Mr. Milton gave evidence before this Committee, are in your parish?—Part of them; there is a part just alongside the borders of my parish, and the rest is just beyond.

6631. Do the work-people belonging to Mr. Ainsworth's works form a considerable portion of your congregation?—Several of them.

6632. Have you also a number of persons residing in your parish who are employed in the mills?—I should think that nearly half the population in the district work at the mills; half would be mill hands, and the other half would be bleachers.

6633. Are they tolerably equally divided as regards number?—Yes.

6634. So that you have had a pretty good opportunity of forming a comparison between the two classes of hands?—I should judge so from my work there, and also from the Sunday school and the sick-clubs.

6635. Have you also another parish in the immediate neighbourhood?—There is one adjoining, which is also called Halliwell; there are two districts taken out of the parish of Dean, one is St. Peter's and the other is St. Paul's, and they are near each other.

6636. Are there day schools and Sunday schools in connexion with the church, at which the workpeople can attend?—I have three day schools in my parish, two of which have been recently completed by Mr. John Ainsworth, at an expense of 2,000 *l.*; one for boys, one for infants, and one for girls.

6637. Have they been recently erected?—There was one large one; but in order to carry out the Government scheme of education, I thought it requisite to have three in the district.

6638. How many schools are there, including the Wesleyan schools, in your immediate neighbourhood?—In my district there are four; in the adjoining district, which is about a mile distant, there are about the same number; it is an easy walk for the children to go to either school.

6639. Have you yourself established night schools?—I have established a night school, to meet twice a week, at which I had about 120, till my health gave way, and then I gave it into the hands of a man who was competent to teach, and who was a very good scholar; but when he began to charge a penny a week for the education the school went down to about 40; but when I conducted it myself I had 120 young men and young women from the bleach-works and the mills.

6640. You made no charge?—No.

6641. Was the 1 *d.* a week which was charged by the schoolmaster an obstacle to the workpeople?—It is so.

6642. Do you think that it is an obstacle in consequence of their being so poor, or that it is an obstacle because they do not like to contribute their money for the purpose of education?—I think the latter is the case.

6643. What

6643. What class of people attended your school generally?—Both classes, the bleaching hands and the mill hands.

6644. Is your neighbourhood well provided with schools, if the people are willing to avail themselves of them?—I am convinced that there are not three better schools in any district of Lancashire. The inspector has just been to the schools, and much admired them, and since then I have seen different schools in Lancashire, and I am of the same opinion.

6645. Are there libraries attached to the school?—There is a library, and the young people take out the books once a week.

6646. As there is abundance of accommodation, can you tell the Committee whether or not the people employed in the bleach-works avail themselves of it?—The majority of the labouring classes that attend my church come from the bleach-works; although half the population are weavers and spinners, there are not 10 adults that attend my church connected with the mills.

6647. May the Committee infer from this, that the bleaching population are more disposed to perform their religious duties than the mill hands?—I do not know what principle influences them, but it is a matter of fact.

6648. Are not they very superior to the mill people in that respect?—They are infinitely superior, they attend church, the Sunday schools, and the day schools.

6649. With respect to the schools, can you give any statement of the number of day and Sunday scholars, and also of those who attend the jubilee schools?—I have nothing at all to do with the jubilee schools, but, inasmuch as there is some degree of rivalry between the two schools, as to which has the greatest number, which has been rather brought about by the workpeople themselves, I was led to inquire, some few months ago, what was the attendance, and I found that the average is 372 in my Sunday school, and in the day school 203, out of a population of about 2,000. I am aware that, by the census return, it was under 2,000, but, judging from the increase of the population, I should think it is above that now.

6650. Would those be mill people or bleaching operatives?—Both, but the majority are from the bleach-works; 203 attend the day-schools, and 372 on an average attended at the Sunday schools; and, with regard to the Methodists, I have found that there are 136 in the Sunday school attendance. I have a statement of the whole, by which it appears that there are nearly one-fourth of the population under tuition in either the Sunday schools or the day-schools.

6651. Will you hand that statement in?—

[*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*]

	Day Schools.			Sunday Schools.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
St. Paul's	105	98	203	176	196	372	Average attendance.
Jubilee School	58	57	115	130	135	265	
Smithills	-	-	-	41	50	91	
Methodist St. Paul's, Halliwell	-	-	-	-	-	136	
Delph Hill (Jubilee)	-	-	-	-	-	207	
						1,071	

Halliwell, 14 July 1857. *J. Lomax.*

6652. From your experience of the working classes of Lancashire, do you consider that the persons who work in the bleach-works have a fair average amount of intelligence?—As far as abstract education is concerned, I think they are superior; as regards intelligence, I should say that they are equal in every sense to the other operatives of Lancashire.

6653. The Rev. William Milton has stated to this Committee that at the time he

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he was incumbent of Halliwell the morals of the workpeople were very bad; is that the case now?—With respect to that question, I beg to say that I have between 60 and 70 young women in my Sunday school, and that for the two years and a half that I have been resident there, I have not had one case of disgrace or immorality in connexion with any of the bleachers; that is to say, no case has come under my immediate notice, and the district being very concentrated, I know all that is going on there.

6654. Have not you a pretty good knowledge of all of them?—I think I know most of them.

6655. The Rev. William Milton has led the Committee to understand that the bleachers were denied opportunities of improving in morality, and in physical condition; if that were so in his time, is it so now?—I know nothing respecting Mr. Milton, or the circumstances connected with him; during my own time I have kept up a night-school, and in that school I have had classes, in which I tried to teach various things; according to the previous knowledge of the class; I have taught them English grammar, and they have been through the Latin grammar twice, and they are in the Delectus, and most of them are young men in the bleach-works. The best teacher that I have in the school, in fact, the best teachers and the best scholars are bleachers. Some of them translate the Delectus very well, and they will soon be in Cæsar, and those are hands working in the bleach-works.

6656. May the Committee infer from that statement, that whatever may have been the case formerly, now, at all events, the bleaching population has opportunities of improving in morality and physical condition, quite to the same extent which the factory hands have?—I am not prepared to assert that; I am prepared to assert that they take advantage more readily of what they can obtain in the shape of education than the mill hands do; I have only one mill hand who attends my night classes. Either from their calling, or from some cause which I do not know, or from the temptation to drink, I cannot get the young men at the mills to attend my schools, nor their parents to attend church.

6657. Persons who, according to the evidence which has been given to this Committee, are employed longer hours in the bleach-works than the mill hands, are still more willing to avail themselves of the little leisure that they have than the workpeople in the mills, who have more leisure?—I am a stranger in Lancashire; I have been only six years there; but from my experience in Lancashire, what I think is, that if the Legislature shortens the hours of labour for the working classes, it must decrease the facilities and the temptations afforded by drink, which are the curse of this country both mentally, morally, and physically; that is the result of my experience for six years in Lancashire.

6658. With reference to the health of the young people in the bleach-works, in your opinion is their health injured by the long hours they work?—I never found it so; during the two years and a half that I have been at Halliwell, I have had 27 cases of consumption, and I have only had one from the bleach-works out of the 27.

6659. Where did the other cases chiefly come from?—The mills. The number of those who have died, and who now have consumption, and I may say are dying, are 27 in 2½ years, and only one of those was from the bleach-works, and that was a case of hereditary consumption; the family was a consumptive family. The same remark would apply to my former parish at Prestwich. I might remark that there are 24 who have been in my juvenile sick-list since October, and that, out of 24, there are only three or four (I believe it is three) in connexion with the bleach-works.

6660. What is the idea entertained among the workpeople themselves as to their position; have you found them apt to consider themselves superior, as a class, to the mill hands; and have you had occasion to check the exhibition of that feeling?—Yes; I have had to do so in both parishes. Many children have left the school, in consequence of what I might call the sneering and contemptuous language which the bleaching girls and boys have used towards the mill hands; and I have publicly stated that I should either punish the children or send them out of the school, if they showed any disposition of the sort towards the mill hands.

6661. Do you ever find that the workpeople leave the bleach-works and go to avail themselves of the short hours in the cotton mills?—No, I have never had anything of the sort; at least I am not aware of it.

6662. Have

6662. Have you ever found the reverse?—I have had frequent applications, both in the parish of Prestwich, and in the parish of Halliwell, to get the children or the grown-up people from the mills into the bleach-works.

6663. In whose works did that occur?—At the bleach-works in the neighbourhood; Mr. Ainsworth's and Mr. Cross's, in the neighbourhood where I am now living; and Mr. Bleakley's, at Prestwich.

6664. Have you ever recommended young persons employed in the cotton mills to go to the bleach-works?—I invariably recommend them to do so. If I find the children leaving the day schools, I ask their parents where they are going to send them, and I advise them to send them to the bleach-works, even for less wages.

6665. Do you think it is more healthy, and not less moral?—Decidedly.

6666. Have you often been in Mr. Ainsworth's bleach-works?—Occasionally; when I have had friends I have taken them through those, and the works in the neighbourhood.

6667. Have you ever observed the rooms in which the people work, so as to know what sort of rooms they are employed in?—Merely as a passer by; I have never looked at them particularly.

6668. Did they strike you as being of such a description that they were peculiarly adapted to women?—I think so, so far as I have seen.

6669. Are the rooms airy?—Most of them are so.

6670. And free from disagreeable smells?—I never noticed anything of the sort in any of the rooms.

6671. Do you know the Temple works?—Yes; that is part of my parish.

6672. Samuel Price told the Committee, that in the making-up room of the Temple works, the boys and girls found it very hot in consequence of the stove adjoining it; are you aware of that?—The room to which Samuel Price refers is on the left hand side, and on the right hand side of it is a stove, and between those two there is a thoroughfare for carts to pass to go from one road into another road; then there is a strong current of air always passing through the passage between the stove and the room where the children are employed.

6673. During your residence at Halliwell, have you ever heard of the boys and girls lying down, and sleeping together in a room set apart for that purpose, whilst waiting for work at night?—No; I have never heard of it during my residence at Halliwell.

6674. From your inquiries among the people at Halliwell, would not you have heard of it if it had been true?—Certainly.

6675. Have you any sick club in your Sunday school?—I have one which has 151 members; and the age for admission is 12.

6676. Can you tell the Committee whether Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople stand in need of much relief owing to sickness?—With reference to the sick society, as I have said before, since October there have only been 24 cases of relief, and of this number there have only been either three or four bleachers. I think that nearly half of the 151 members of the sick club who are engaged in any works at all, are engaged in the bleach-works either at Mr. Ainsworth's or at Mr. Cross's.

6677. With regard to Mr. Ainsworth himself, do you regard Mr. Ainsworth as a very charitable man, not only to his own workpeople, but to all others when called upon to render assistance?—Mr. Ainsworth being blind, a considerable amount of his charity has to be distributed by others. With regard to myself as a clergyman, and as one of those who have to distribute his charity, he never makes any inquiries relative to those for whom his charity is required, as to what religion they are, or for whom they work; all that he requires is, that they are sick or in distress, and then he supplies them with everything that is necessary in the shape of food and wine; and, if they are badly clothed, with clothing also.

6678. Does Mr. Ainsworth appear generally to be careful and anxious for the moral and religious well-being of those who are in his employment?—I think that may be inferred from what he has done; he has built two churches in the district at a cost, I think, of 15,000 *l.*, and he has built three schools at a cost of 3,000 *l.*; and the schools have cost him a great deal to keep them up until they were placed under inspection.

6679. So far as the Halliwell bleach-works are concerned, is it your opinion that legislative interference is necessary in order to promote the health and morals of the people?—I think that what I have said will answer that question.

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6680. Where did you reside before you came to Halliwell?—I belonged to the district of Unsworth, in the parish of Prestwich.

6681. Are there bleach-works there?—Mr. Bleakley has bleach-works there.

6682. In what state did you find the health, morals and education of the working bleachers in that parish?—As regards the morals, what I said of Mr. Ainsworth's works applies to them; as to their health, I only had one case of consumption in the bleach-works there, and I had several from the mills.

6683. Have you a teacher in your schools named Greenhalgh, the son of old Greenhalgh?—Yes.

6684. Has he remained a long time in the school?—He was there when I came, as a sort of head boy and assistant to the master, and when the school was placed under inspection, and a pupil teacher was required, his father applied for the situation for him, saying that the child was not in good health, and that he had a constitutional disease upon him.

6685. The Committee have heard a sad story about the death of two young women in that family, was not that before your time?—Yes.

6686. Did the father explain to you, that the reason why he wished this boy not to go to the bleach-works was, because he was subject to hereditary consumption?—I know nothing about what transpired with regard to the others; I can speak with regard to the boy, and also with regard to the family of the Greenhalghs, one of his cousins died last summer of consumption, and the sister has been very ill since then of consumption. I thought she would have died also.

6687. *Chairman.*] At what hour does your night-school commence in the evening?—Seven o'clock.

6688. Are the bleachers able to attend that school at that hour?—Sometimes they could attend and sometimes not; they can generally come on Saturday. In my time it opened at eight o'clock, that hour being more convenient to myself; but the master who came after me altered the time from eight o'clock to seven, and that of course has affected the night classes.

6689. Can you tell the Committee how often the bleachers were able to attend that class?—It is impossible that I could say how often any particular individual attended; some bleachers, of course, if they were not engaged at their work, would attend both times, and some could not attend both times; the dyers could attend both times, and some others; but on Saturday, I should say, that very nearly all attended; it depended entirely upon what they were engaged in; the clampers leave work earlier than the others.

6690. Did you notice that, owing to the hours in the bleach-works, they were very irregular in their attendance at your night-school?—I am not aware they were more irregular than any other class of people working in the mills or working anywhere else.

6691. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Did you never ascertain whether that was the case or not?—I have never inquired; I never had any reason to inquire.

6692. How long have you been at the parish where you are now?—I was appointed two years ago in February last.

6693. Is yours the church to which Mr. Milton belonged?—It is the same church.

6694. Did not Mr. Ainsworth build that church?—Yes.

6695. Does he appoint the clergyman?—He is the patron of the church.

6696. Did he dismiss Mr. Milton?—He could not dismiss Mr. Milton, the Bishop alone could do that.

6697. Were not you suggested to the Bishop by Mr. Ainsworth?—Yes.

6698. Have you had much communication with Mr. Ainsworth upon this subject?—No.

6699. Did you ever speak to him about it?—Not with regard to this Bill; what I have said to him is what I have said to other parties with whom I have come into conversation at any past time when I had no idea that a Bleaching Bill was in existence; what I have stated here is the result of my experience spoken of at different times to different individuals prior to my knowing of a Bleaching Bill being in existence.

6700. When did you first hear of a Bleaching Bill being in existence?—The first time that I knew any thing about a Bleaching Bill was when a person called at my house to know if I would sign some petition for a Bleaching Bill, and I said that I knew nothing of the merits of the case, and that I thought that a clergyman ought not to interfere between a master and his men, and I refused to sign it.

6701. Do

6701. Do you know who they were who applied to you?—I do not.

6702. Do you know when that was?—I do not.

6703. Might it be two months ago?—It was more than two months ago; I had some friends at the time staying at my house, and I did not pay much attention to what was said.

6704. Since that time have you had any conversations with anybody about this matter?—I have had conversations about this matter, but not with regard to the Bleaching Bill.

6705. Since the time that you heard of the Bleaching Bill, am I to understand you to say that you have had no conversation with Mr. Ainsworth, or anybody else, about it?—Not with reference to the Bleaching Bill. When I have met people in the social circle, or in a railway carriage, I may have told people my impressions, or I may have given answers to questions as to the result of my experience, or as to the morals of the bleachers, but not with regard to anything like a Bleaching Bill.

6706. Since you heard of the Bleaching Bill you have had no conversation about the Bleaching Bill?—No, not as to its merits.

6707. Before the Bleaching Bill was mooted, of course you had no conversation with anybody about the Bill?—Certainly not.

6708. Do you speak with certainty to the fact that you have never had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth with regard to the restriction of the hours of work?—Never.

6709. Never, either before or after the introduction of the Bleaching Bill?—I am not aware that I have ever spoken to any bleacher, or to anybody about the hours of labour.

6710. Since the time when the Bleaching Bill was mooted, which might be a year and a half ago, have you had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth upon the subject?—I have never, with any object, except that I might talk to any spinner about the bleachers comparing the bleaching-works with the spinning-works, this I have frequently done. I have spoken with the spinners of the unhealthiness of the calling of spinners, and of the contrast between their works and the bleach-works, but I had no object in view.

6711. What gave rise to that conversation; did the bleacher say that his occupation was more healthy than the spinner's?—Yes, the spinners may have named to me what the bleacher said, or I may have mentioned it to the spinner.

6712. You have found out the bleacher is a more healthy person of the two, and finding it out you have mentioned it to the spinners?—Yes.

6713. Has that occurred both before this Bill and since?—Yes, I mentioned it only a few weeks ago to one of the largest spinners in Bolton.

6714. Have you ever had conversations with the operative spinners, in which you have said to them, the bleachers are more healthy people than you are?—Yes.

6715. Have any of the bleachers ever spoken to you favourably of a Bill to restrict the hours of labour?—I am not aware of any; I do not remember that any person has spoken to me about it, either in the parish that I am in now, or in the parish where I was before, or out of my parish, or that any person desired me to take any part about the Bleaching Bill, except when the petition came to me.

6716. Was the petition presented to your notice by any of the people who came to your church?—No; the people who brought it were strangers to me.

6717. Had you any conversation with them upon it?—As I said before, I was dining at the time, and I had some friends at my house, and the servant came and said that some people wished to speak with me; and when they told me their object, I said that I did not consider it right for the clergyman to take any part between the masters and the men, except it was to reconcile the parties; and as to signing a petition for any matter which placed the masters and the men in opposition, I never had done so, and I never should.

6718. Are you quite certain that you never had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth, with regard to the policy or impolicy of the Bleaching Bill?—Never; I state positively that I never have spoken of the policy or impolicy of the Bill to Mr. Ainsworth, or to any other bleacher.

6719. Did I rightly understand you to say that the bleachers are, in point of morality at any rate, on a par, if not superior, to the factory people?—I do not

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speak of them collectively; I speak of those people who have come under my notice in the two parishes where I have been placed since I have been in Lancashire; and I state that the morals and the health of those people are superior to what I have found among the spinners and the weavers.

6720. What is your opinion as to their education?—As to education, I say that they are decidedly upon a par (judging from my experience) with other classes; I should say that they are superior. As a proof of that, I may mention that there is a young woman who has just gone to be a schoolmistress, who has been engaged in the bleach-works for some years. She is gone directly from them to be a schoolmistress; she was in my night school shortly before she left, and she is now schoolmistress; and I have had many other girls who are infinitely superior to many women who are engaged in teaching schools. And of the young men in the works, many can do any sum in decimals, and know the English grammar well, and are now progressing rapidly with the Latin grammar.

6721. Do you think that the opportunities of acquiring education are quite as great among the bleachers as among the factory hands?—I believe I have stated before that what I have to complain of is not the want of opportunity, but the want of the will to attend among all classes, but particularly among the spinners.

6722. If they desire to obtain the advantages of education, have they the opportunity of doing so?—I am sure that if there was a great need for it, they would only have to wait upon Mr. Ainsworth or Mr. Cross, and name their request to them, and they would accede to it.

6723. Mr. *Turner.*] There has been some documentary evidence laid before this Committee to show that the factory girls are particularly skilful in making fancy work and various articles of needlework, and reference has been made to a bazaar at which those things were exhibited; can you tell the Committee whether the girls employed in the bleach-works are also acquainted with fancy needlework or crochet work, and can make fancy articles quite as well as the girls employed in mills?—Quite so, and I have samples of it in my own house, having had things presented to me of a fancy nature, made by the workpeople. But this is a thing which I do not encourage, and I would rather not use it as an argument for this question; I never wish to allow it in my school; my complaint is, in visiting from house to house, and from cottage to cottage, that I see the needle so little used among the spinners; I seldom see a mother even repairing a garment, and the reason is this, as Mr. Rylands stated just now, that, according to the principles of the Factory Act, a child is allowed to enter when eight years old, and it is frequently the custom for them to go to work at the mills till they are old enough to come to the bleach-works. I do not know of more than one child in Mr. Ainsworth's mill going to work under 11, and they are all examined by Mr. Ainsworth, to see whether they can read and write and spell before they are admitted; but they go to the spinning mills from the time they are eight years old, until they are admitted into the bleach-works; and because there is an opportunity for them to have half a day's education, in order that they may get more money, the parents refuse to send their children to my school and other schools before that time, because they will get half a day's education for the four years from the time they are eight years old till they are 11 or 12. The very fact of their having this opportunity, prevents the parents from sending the children to school. I believe the Factory Act works injuriously, both mentally and morally, I say nothing about its results physically; that is the result of my experience.

6724. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Would you repeal the Factory Act?—That is another question altogether; I say that practically it works badly; but it does not follow that there is not another mode by which it can be prudently worked. As Mr. Ryland stated just now, I would not allow any child to work until he was 11 or 12 years old, and then the parents would be obliged to send their children to school, because they would have no alternative in the shape of half a day's education in the mills. Moreover, it works badly with respect to the other children. We inculcate the necessity of cleanliness, and they come to school clean in the morning, but in the afternoon when the half timers come in with their clothes covered with oil, the bleacher's children do not like to associate with them; and then they get a vocabulary of obscene words in the mills that are communicated to the other children not engaged in the mills; and therefore, I object, as a clergyman, to uniting them with the children that go to school regularly.

6725. Is

6725. Is the committee to understand that the only amendment that you would make in the Factory Act, would be to prevent the children going in till they are 12 years of age?—I think so; they go into the factories at a young age, and work there till they are frequently taken into the bleach-works.

6726. Did not you speak of the Factory Act as mischievous, both mentally and morally?—Yes; I am not speaking of the physical results upon their minds, but I am saying that they do not get that education that they ought to have in consequence of having that opportunity. If they were obliged to stay at home till they were 11 or 12 years of age, they would go to school up to that time; but now, knowing that they will get half a day's education, the parents refuse to send them to school up to the time of their going to the factories.

6727. Do you mean to say, that the parents would be able to give their children a full day's education instead of a half day's education, not having the advantage of the children's labour?—They would do it because they would know that the children would have no education unless they got it before they went to work.

6728. Did not you say that there was a great disinclination upon the part of the parents, to give their children education?—Yes, because they can work them.

6729. Do I rightly understand you to say, that if you had to make a suggestion, you would suggest that the Legislature should restrict the time for going into the mills till the children were 12 years of age?—If there were any legislation as to the time of work, it should be with respect to restricting the hours of labour among young children; that is what we should commence with.

6730. You say that the children, when they come out of the mills, the half-timers as they are called, are greatly given to the use of obscene language?—Yes.

6731. Do you find that particularly among the half-timers?—I find it particularly among the factory people.

6732. Did not you say in the former part of your evidence, that you had to rebuke the bleachers for using sneering language towards the factory hands?—Yes: I said sneering, as the Lancashire people call it. What I mean by sneering is, looking down upon them, because they are worse clad, and because they do not get so much wages; I did not mean by the word sneering, that they used bad language, but merely that they treated them as inferior.

6733. Then the bleachers use sarcastic language, and the half-timers use obscene language?—Yes.

6734. Have you observed that at both the places where you have been living, both at Prestwich and Halliwell?—Yes.

6735. Mr. *Cheetham.*] At the school to which you refer, and at which the half-times attended, had you no rule that they should come with their hands and faces washed?—We have a rule, but we find it almost impossible to carry it out; instead of the children coming for half a day, the master sometimes will send them for three days, either at the beginning or the end of the week, as it suited their convenience; instead of coming five successive half-days, they would come for two whole days and a half, either at the beginning or the end of the week. I believe it is contrary to the law; but still, often there is an understanding between the employer and the schoolmaster who keeps the account, so that you could not rely upon their correctness when they represent that they have attended for five successive days.

6736. You have spoken of the night school, which you said commenced at eight o'clock; what class of young people attend that school?—Both classes; there were weavers and bleachers, and some from other employments; but the bleachers were the principal.

6737. What ages, generally, are those young people?—At ages varying from 15 to 25.

6738. Had they generally had a previous education in a day school?—Most of them had. The education that I gave varied very much; some I taught to write, and some to spell, and some to read.

6739. Had you any ecclesiastical charge previous to your first charge in Lancashire?—No; I came direct from Oxford to Lancashire.

Siffrid Nevil Bancroft, Esq., called in; and Examined.

S. Bancroft, Esq.

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6740. Mr. *Cheetham.*] YOU are, I believe, a Surgeon practising at Bolton?—Yes.

6741. How long have you been in practice there?—Thirty-one years.

6742. Has your practice been chiefly among the workpeople of that neighbourhood?—Yes.

6743. Have you obtained a considerable experience among that class?—I have a tolerable knowledge of them.

6744. Have you had any acquaintance with the working classes employed by Messrs. Ainsworth, of Halliwell?—Yes.

6745. We have had a case mentioned before the Committee with regard to a family employed at Halliwell, of the name of Greenhalgh, do you know that family?—Yes; I attended, I think, three or four of them.

6746. How long ago?—It is many years ago.

6747. At that time, was the Rev. William Milton, the incumbent of St. Paul's, in that parish?—Yes.

6748. Do you remember the deaths of two of that family, Elizabeth and Mary Jane?—Yes; one had been confined. But I may say that, previously, there was an hereditary complaint in the family; there was both scrofula and consumption.

6749. Were their deaths or illness attributable to being over-worked in the bleach-works?—No; Elizabeth Greenhalgh had been confined, I think, about six months, and it had left a disease; and she went to work, I think, about six months after the disease was got in abeyance; and she returned to work, and died.

6750. From your experience with the population employed in the bleach-works, have you formed any opinion as to whether that employment is a healthy one or otherwise?—I think it is a very healthy employment; I do not know any employment more healthy.

6751. Do you concur in the opinion given before this Committee by a previous witness, Mr. Robinson, a medical man, that bleaching was not an unhealthy occupation?—I perfectly agree with him in that.

6752. Have you occasionally recommended delicate persons with whom you have come into contact to enter that occupation in preference to other branches of the trade?—I have only recommended them when I found the constitution delicate; when I have found that they have been in a mill, and I have begged them, if they could not get more than half the wages, to go to the bleach-works.

6753. Can you state to the Committee any reasons for that advice?—I think that the factory is very unwholesome; the flue that is obliged to be kept down in the spinning, by the moisture and heat together, so as to make the fibres twist into an even thread, takes the oxygen out of the room just upon the same principle, that when a fire occurs in any of the rooms they break the steam-pipes, so as at once to take the oxygen out; I believe that is the great principle that breaks down the constitution; there is extreme heat, which compels the workman to drink water freely so as to keep the heat of the body down.

6754. The Committee have had objections offered to the finishing-rooms in the bleaching-works; have you ever been in any of those rooms yourself?—I have been in them; the heat is great there; but they can have a current of air through the room; and I think persons come by less injuries than in the factories.

6755. Do you think that the ventilation to which you have alluded, then, mitigates the evil that might arise?—It does; it takes away one-half of the evil.

6756. Judging from the state in which you have seen those rooms upon your visits, do you deem them objectionable places for females and other persons to be employed in?—No, I do not.

6757. Is it your opinion that young persons could be employed in bleach-works a longer time without prejudice to their health than in cotton mills?—I think that a person would work better 14 hours a-day in a bleach-work than 10½ hours in a mill.

6758. Have you formed any opinion as to whether you consider legislation necessary with reference to bleach-works for the preservation of the health of the people employed in them?—Not necessary; I interested myself very much in the passing of the Factory Act, because I saw there a loss of life, and I thought, as an individual member of society, that it was my duty to do what I could to mend it.

6759. You

6759. You do not consider such a course actually necessary with regard to bleach-works?—I am sure it is not as far as their health goes.

6760. Have you formed any opinion as to the intelligence of the persons employed in bleach-works?—I think they are of a fair average.

6761. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, that neither the death nor the illness of either of the Greenhalghs was occasioned in any way by over-work?—No it was not; the girl returned to her work, and when I spoke as to her keeping regular hours, it was with regard to her moral conduct, not with regard to the hours of labour.

6762. Now, I understand you to say, that after six months the disease fell into abeyance, and then she went back to her work, and died there?—She came back from her work and the disease progressed.

6763. At that time were you under the impression that she was in a fit state to go back to her work, or not?—She was in a fit state, but there was an hereditary disease, which broke out afresh.

6764. Is it your opinion, as a medical man, that her death was in any way accelerated by her going back to work?—I cannot answer that question directly, yes or no; but it is my opinion it would have broken out had she not gone to work; it was not through very excessive work at the time.

6765. That is with respect to one of those girls; what was the case of the other?—The other died from an affection of the brain, brought on by irregularity of body.

6766. Is it your own opinion that her death was in no degree increased or expedited by work?—I am sure it was not.

6767. Did I rightly understand you to say that you have recommended delicate people to enter the bleach-works?—Yes, often, before there was the least agitation about the Bleaching Bill; I was convinced with reference to the employment long before that, that it was the best remedy they had.

6768. Were those people whom you recommended to go into bleaching-works working in factories?—Yes.

6769. Did you make that recommendation previous to the passing of the Factory Act?—Yes; I think I did, many times before the Factory Act was passed.

6770. Since 1847 have you made similar recommendations?—Yes; and I recommend them even now, if they have delicate lungs or any hereditary disease, to go to the bleach-works.

6771. Did I rightly understand you to say that you thought the unwholesome heat most fatal to human health?—It is, particularly when moisture is combined with it. I know that a great number of overlookers take a can to moisten the surface of the floor, and the room being kept hot creates a moist atmosphere, which softens the fibres of the cotton, and twists it into a more even thread.

6772. Supposing there to be a dryer atmosphere, at what heat would you imagine a more dry temperature to be prejudicial to human health?—I think it would be equally bad in those rooms if it were not for the moisture, because you would have the cotton flue coming out.

6773. Take any room you please, at what height would you say that the temperature in any particular room would be prejudicial to human health?—I should think 100 degrees prejudicial to human health.

6774. Would it be your opinion that people working in a temperature of 100 degrees would suffer?—Yes; I am confident they would.

6675. Mr. *Cobbett.*] Have you had great opportunities of noticing the health of the persons who work in the factories?—Yes; I have remarked them in the town constantly coming out from work; and when the matter was first mooted in Manchester some 40 years ago, I was quite astonished that the masters gave the evidence that they did before the House at that time; and there were only one or two gentlemen in London, I think Abernethy was one, who came forward like men.

6776. Have you been for a great number of years observing this kind of work in factories?—Yes.

6777. Did I rightly understand you to say, that the reason why you think it so unhealthy is, that there is damp with the heat, and that where there is not that damp there is the flue?—Yes; they are not both together, the damp keeps the flue down.

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6778. Each of them is prejudicial to health?—Yes.

6779. And you particularly observe that formerly they were very unhealthy people?—They have improved a little since the Factory Bill has passed; but not so much as I thought they would have done.

6780. Have you been in the habit of recommending sickly people who were in factories to go into bleach-works in preference to remaining in the factory?—Yes; because I saw that death would follow; and I have requested them repeatedly to do so, because I knew that I should have to contend with disease that I could not encounter.

6781. You said just now that persons in bleaching-works could stand 14 hours a-day better than they could stand 10½ in a factory?—Yes, that is my opinion.

6782. Can any young person stand such long hours as 14 hours a-day?—They will stand 14 hours when in the bleach-works; that is my opinion. I would rather go to the bleach-works for 14 hours than I would go for 10½ to a mill.

6783. Do you remember the question being put to the gentleman whose name you have mentioned, Mr. Abernethy, as to at what age a young person could work 14 hours in the day, and his answer being emphatically, "No age"?—No, I do not recollect that.

6784. Would you dissent from that?—Yes. I am speaking of the comparison of one with the other.

6785. In your opinion, could a young person, without detriment to her health, be called upon to work 14 hours a-day?—Yes, in a good atmosphere.

Henry Marsland, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. Marsland, Esq.

6786. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I BELIEVE you are the Proprietor of some Bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Stockport?—Yes.

6787. And some years ago you represented that borough in Parliament?—I was member for the borough.

6788. How long have you been engaged in that trade?—Perhaps altogether from 20 to 25 years, but for 8 or 10 years I was out of business while I was in Parliament.

6789. How many workpeople do you employ in the bleaching trade?—About 100.

6790. Did Mr. Tremenheere visit your works?—No, I never saw him.

6791. Are not your works, in themselves, very different to some others that we have had before the Committee, in respect to the mode in which they are turned?—They are chiefly turned by water power.

6792. Does that subject you to greater inconvenience than those works which are turned by steam?—Yes, in consequence of an Act of Parliament that was passed to benefit the Manchester corporation; they have the power of impounding the water for 12 hours out of the 24; and, by that Act of Parliament they give us the water at half-past five in the morning; and in dry seasons it does not arrive at Stockport, in consequence of that impounding, till perhaps 10 or half-past 11, or sometimes even as late as one in the afternoon. Now I consider that it would be a great injustice if an Act of Parliament were passed prohibiting me from employing it at the bleach-works at any time except from six to six, when there is another Act of Parliament which prevents me from having the water until 11 or 12 o'clock at noon.

6793. Do you mean to say that there are occasions when you cannot commence operations at your mill till 12 o'clock?—Yes, there is not water-power for it.

6794. If by legislation you were placed under continuous work and restricted to ten hours and a half daily would not that subject you to a greater loss than you now sustain?—Yes, for I should have to pay to Lord Vernon 400 *l.* per annum for the water privileges, which, by two Acts of Parliament, I should be unable to enjoy above half that time.

6795. For what particular trade are you engaged in bleaching?—The foreign trade.

6796. Are you, in consequence of that, more subject to what are termed pushes for any particular market?—We are subject to pushes, but I have never worked, in 1854 and 1855, more than 10 hours a-day upon the average, and from 1856 up to June 1857 more than an average of 9 hours, but we are certainly subject sometimes to pushes, and we are dependent upon the parties who supply us with the goods for bleaching.

6797. Is

6797. Is it not the case that at certain seasons of the year you may have worked 4 hours, and at others, 16 and 17, so as to make an average of 9 hours in the one case, and 10 in the other?—Yes.

6798. Is that average which you have stated to the Committee less or more than formerly was the case?—When I was formerly in business, I never worked long hours, because I was so connected with manufacture, that I could not work long hours, therefore I have never worked more in my own time.

6799. You cannot tell the Committee, whether in your experience the length of time that the work-people have been employed has been greater or less than it is now?—I cannot speak from my own personal knowledge, but I fancy it has.

6800. Can you state to the Committee the condition, as regards health, of the people in bleach-works, as compared with other works round there?—I consider that as compared with factories, where machinery is employed, upon the whole there is better ventilation and better air and a less number congregated together.

6801. Have you had any complaints in your works of sore feet?—No, none whatever; I do not believe they have suffered from that.

6802. Can you state anything to the Committee as regards the morals of the people employed in bleach-works?—Stockport is not a bleaching place, and therefore the morals of the people in the bleaching-works must correspond, in some degree, to that of the surrounding class; but we can get a superior description of hands to those employed in the factories, and therefore, no doubt, they are a more moral class than the factory people are.

6803. Does your employment enable you to make a selection of labour in Stockport?—Yes; I should fancy that we get a superior class of hands. I would sooner take persons out of the bleach-works for domestic servants than I would out of the factories.

6804. Can you explain how it is that you get this higher class in your work?—It is more healthy, and they like it better: it is not such continued or such continuous work, and they have more leisure occasionally.

6805. What is your own opinion as to the employment of young people of 11 years of age?—Abstractedly, apart from all considerations, it cannot be advisable to work children within that tender age.

6806. Would you exclude them altogether from employment in bleach-works at 11 years of age?—A thing may be a great evil, and yet I may not be willing to have it rectified by legislation; for instance, intemperance is a great evil, but I should not like to join in the alliance movement.

6807. Have you any clamping-rooms, such as those respecting which we have had evidence before the Committee?—No.

6808. Are any of the women whom you employ employed at a high temperature?—No.

6809. How do you pay your workpeople, by the day or by the piece?—Some by the day, but most by the piece.

6810. Do you remember Mr. Tremenheere's Report?—I have looked it over.

6811. Do you remember a passage in which he alludes to a man of the name of Richard Partington being engaged in your works in the year 1842, and in which this man states that he worked eight days consecutively without seeing home or bed?—He never worked for me at that time, because I was not in business at that time.

6812. Did he work that length of time for some party?—Not for anybody with whom I was connected or had any interest in; I can only speak to what concerns myself; I cannot speak to any thing which concerns anybody else.

6813. He further said that he worked six or seven Sundays running; is that the case?—He never worked for me six or seven Sundays, nor have I ever had my machinery running for any Sunday; there is a law against Sunday working.

6814. The Committee have had evidence regarding certain discharge papers which are technically called quittance papers; have you them?—We never give quittance papers unless they are asked for, we have no secret mark; if a person asks for a note saying that they are discharged, we give it without any mark, but we seldom give it.

6815. Most of your neighbours in the borough of Stockport, being engaged in cotton factories, are subject to legislation; do you think that your trade should be made an exception to the rule?—I have always opposed legislation upon the subject of work, and I do not think that because one evil has been committed another should be.

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6816. Are you of opinion that there is no proved necessity for legislation in bleach-works?—I do not suppose there is; I do not mean to say that if it could be managed, it would not be better for people to work regularly and at certain times; but it is a thing that cannot happen; and I do not see why, with the few women employed as they are in most of the bleach-works, we should have a law relating to bleach-works when you allow the theatres and the operas, and those places where women are employed in far greater numbers than in bleach-works, and where they are employed later hours; and the same remark would apply to domestic servants. I believe that the morals of the bleaching workpeople are just as pure as they are at those places which I have mentioned, and that their health is more robust, and their hours of labour are more regular.

6817. Have you heard any expression of opinion upon the part of your workpeople as being anxious for legislation?—No, but that is an answer which I must qualify: if I have a push of work come in, and I want to do it, if I ask my people if they will be willing to work or not, I invariably find that they have been glad to work. For instance, some time ago, when we happened to have more work than usual, a man said to me, "This is as it should be;" but if I were to ask them whether they would like to have long hours or short, they would say, short hours, thinking that their labour would be increased in value, in consequence of there being more demand for it.

6818. Is it your opinion that legislation could regulate the hours, and make them more steady than they are?—I have said already that I am opposed to all legislation upon the subject; it is not merely saying that a thing is an evil that would make me legislate upon the subject, because I would endeavour to cure the evil by other means. A great deal has been said about the factory people; I believe they are much better off than they were when the Factory Act was passed, but it should be borne in mind that at the same time the Corn Law was altered, and there was a greater demand for labour, and the people became more independent, and they could dictate their own terms. Now for instance, since the Factory Act was passed, there were two or three mills at Stockport which worked longer hours than those which the Bill allowed, from six to six, and it was put a stop to by the people determining that they would not work; that has been done by themselves and not by any legislation, because those factories were beyond the Factory Act.

6819. To redress any irregularities of employment in the bleaching works, you would recommend a voluntary arrangement between the masters and the workpeople?—With regard to everything that concerns the condition of the working classes, it is a great thing not to encourage a spirit of antagonism between employers and employed, and I think that public opinion bearing upon the question would cure many of the evils which have undoubtedly existed in times past.

6820. *Chairman.*] What class of goods do you bleach?—Shirtings; anything that we can get.

6821. Is it linen bleaching, or cotton?—There is no linen at all; it is all cotton.

6822. Did I rightly understand you to say that you were much restricted in the hours that you could work by the operation of some private Act of Parliament?—Yes; by the Manchester Corporation Act.

6823. Is not your case, therefore, a special case?—I fancy it is a stronger case than others.

6824. Supposing that that Act of Parliament was not in existence, and that you were not hindered in any way in the supply of water to turn your wheels, would your objection to the proposed legislation be as great as it is now?—Not so great, because there would not be that injustice; but I should object, upon the general principle that I do not like interference.

6825. Beyond the general principle, which would be as strong against all interference, practically speaking, what would be your opinion of the effect of this proposed restriction upon the hours of labour?—I very much doubt whether the restriction upon the hours of labour by legislation will not have a very injurious effect upon all manufactures of this country in time to come; and to show that my opinion has not been guided by circumstances, I may say that when I first came out as a Member of Parliament, I was much teased to express an opinion upon the subject of the short-time Act, and I always refused; I said I would never come into Parliament if I was tied upon the subject.

6826. Did not you say that, with few exceptions, you did not work these long hours

hours as a general rule; and that, as a general rule, you had not worked more than nine hours a day for the last two years?—Yes; that was in 1856, and up to June 1857; and I worked, upon an average, 10 hours the year before.

6827. Practically, would a restriction to 10 hours a day seriously interfere with your operations?—Yes.

6828. Will you point out how it would do so?—Because sometimes we work more than 12 hours a day, and six or eight at others.

6829. What would be the insuperable difficulty in making some arrangement, whereby you might divide your work more evenly over the week?—It does not depend upon ourselves, but upon the parties who push us, and who do not know the hours we are working.

6830. Have you ever had occasion to appeal to the persons who were driving you with these pushes not to press you so hard with pushes?—I am afraid that such an appeal would be no use; it is always against the interest of the bleachers to push things too fast.

6831. Then, as far as the interest of the bleachers is concerned, you object to these pushes?—Yes.

6832. And anything that would induce those people who give you their orders to be a little more considerate you would regard as a boon?—Yes.

6833. Mr. *Kirk*.] Do you find that the water, generally speaking, does not come to your place sooner than 11 or 12 in the day?—Yes, in dry seasons; I have a table of the hours when it came in July.

6834. Will you hand that in?—

(*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*)

DATE.	WHEN THE WATER ARRIVES.	DATE.	WHEN THE WATER ARRIVES.
1857:		1857:	
July - 1	- 10 a. m.	July - 13	- 12½ noon.
„ - 2	- 11 a. m..	„ - 14	- 12 noon.
„ - 3	- 12 noon.	„ - 15	- 12½ noon.
„ - 4	- 12 noon.	„ - 16	- 1½ p. m.
„ - 6	- 11 a. m.	„ - 17	- 1½ p. m.
„ - 7	- 6 a. m.	„ - 18	- 11½ a. m.
„ - 8	- 11 a. m.	„ - 20	- 1½ p. m.
„ - 9	- 12 noon.	„ - 21	- 1½ p. m.
„ - 10	- 12 noon.	„ - 22	- 11½ a. m.
„ - 11	- 11 a. m.		

6835. When you commence work at 11 or 12 o'clock in the day, to what time would you work at night?—That depends upon circumstances.

6836. Assuming that you had ample employment, when would you commence?—We do not commence all our operations at once, we have to run the engine partly; for the engine is not sufficiently powerful to turn all the works, and therefore until the water arrives we do the lighter operations in the morning.

6837. You gave an answer to a question with regard to continental competition; is it your opinion that continental competition is over, or that it is only beginning?—That is a question that I only gave an opinion upon because I was asked; but it is a thing that I am not sufficiently acquainted with, except upon general views. I do not think it is over, if you ask my private opinion; but still I say, not having travelled upon the Continent much, I am not able to express an opinion upon the subject so carefully as I should like to do.

6838. Is not it true that they are continually getting machinery from this country, similar to yours and that of other gentlemen, for the purpose of competing with Englishmen in your peculiar branches of trade?—I suppose they are; but I have no means of knowing it, because it does not pass through my hands.

Mr. *James Southworth*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Southworth.*

24 July 1857.

6839. Mr. *Cheetham.*] ARE you the Manager of Messrs. Sykes and Company's bleach-works, near Stockport?—I am.

6840. How long have you been engaged in bleaching?—Forty years, and the last 24 years with Messrs. Sykes & Co.

6841. Had you had experience before, of bleaching?—Very great.

6842. Did Mr. Tremenheere visit those works?—No; he never came near us at all.

6843. Were your works in the list that was handed to him by Mr. Ainsworth?—I am told they were in that list.

6844. What is the number of workpeople employed there?—Two hundred and six, altogether.

6845. Does that include men, women and children?—It does.

6846. Have you any statement which you wish to make upon that subject?—I should just state that the number of men above 18 years of age is 123; under 18, and above 11, 39. The females above 18 are 28, and between 11 and 18, they are 16.

6847. What is the number of children that you have of 11 years of age?—From 11 to 12, we have five boys and one girl; from 12 to 13, eight boys and one girl; from 13 to 14, seven boys and two girls; from 14 to 18, 16 boys and 12 girls.

6848. Do you consider it desirable to work them so young as eight years of age?—No one ought to do it at all.

6849. Do you find that occasionally the parent is anxious to get them so employed?—We are inundated almost every day in the week by parties applying to have their children taken into the works, and sometimes as early as eight or nine. We never take any one till they are 11 years of age.

6850. It has been stated to the Committee, that occasionally the employers have threatened to discharge the parents if the children of that age did not come there; is that so?—I never knew a case of that sort in all my life.

6851. Is there any pressure on the part of the parents to obtain employment for their children?—Decidedly so.

6852. Have you been employing machinery to a greater extent of late, than you formerly did?—For the last three or four years we have made considerable alterations in the works, and have considerably extended the machinery in connexion with bleaching.

6853. Is that in the finishing and making-up departments?—It is both in the bleaching and the finishing departments.

6854. What effect has the introduction of that new machinery had upon the employment of the workpeople?—I think the effect upon the employment of the people has been to equalise the work.

6855. And in some degree to reduce the hours?—That is decidedly so.

6856. Has it facilitated the nature of the work?—It has facilitated the nature of the work.

6857. Do you think it has relieved the labour of the workpeople?—It has, very much indeed; it has not only decreased the labour, but it has also increased the comfort of the workpeople.

6858. That has been the result of the introduction of this improved machinery?—Yes. In relation to that, I may speak a little of my own experience. When I was a youth I was put to work, in order to get some practical knowledge of the bleaching business; I was about 16, I think, when I was first put to work, and a considerable portion of the work then had to be done in the open air, it was connected with the water, and in the winter time we had to work out of doors as well as in doors, the same as in summer; if it was wet it did not interfere with our business, because the work must be done, and we were to do it, whether it was wet or dry.

6859. Whether it was dry or not, the principal part of the work at the time you speak of was done out of doors?—A certain portion of it; they began to cover the things over when I was working out of doors; machinery has completely done away with that, and there has been, ever since the time I speak of, a constant tendency

tendency to use such improvements as would ameliorate the condition of the working people; that has been the effect of machinery.

6860. Looking back to the time to which you refer, do you consider the condition of the workpeople now superior, with regard to ease and other advantages connected with it, to what it was then?—Decidedly; there is no comparison.

6861. Can you state to the Committee the time to which you have worked at your establishment?—The average time that we have worked for the last three years has been about 10 hours; I do not think it has been more, but during the whole of 1856, and from the commencement of this January, we have not averaged more than nine hours.

6862. Of course you have had extremes both ways?—We have worked as much as 15 hours sometimes, and at other times we have not worked more than six or seven.

6863. Is that irregularity of employment within your own control?—It is not, or we should not use it.

6864. Are you in a dependent condition, as regards the orders from the merchant and the manufacturer?—We are; and we are so much so, that the merchant has said to me frequently: "Can you do this work in such a time? if you cannot, we cannot send it to you;" and I have said, "I will." They have sent us goods to bleach without fixing the time to have them bleached at all, and in the course of a day or two an order has come for them. They have said to me, "If you do not get this cloth in by such a time" (which is a much shorter time than our ordinary time) "we shall have it thrown on our own hands. You must make an effort, and try to do it for us."

6865. And, in order not to disappoint them, you have worked irregular hours?—We have had to work the longer hours.

6866. Do you think it practicable, as a man of business, that you could refuse those orders and say, "I can only work my establishment such a number of hours?"—As a man of business I could not refuse the orders, if they did not entail very unreasonable hours on the workpeople; when we are unduly pressed for time, we refuse the order.

6867. You could not always refuse the order?—I could not always.

6868. Would not the result be, that there would be times when you would have no work at all for your establishment?—It would.

6869. How do you pay your workpeople; by the piece or by the day?—Most of them are paid by the piece.

6870. Is the day's work based upon any certain number of hours?—It is by the number of pieces done that the workpeople are paid, at prices agreed with them, and the money is divided *pro ratá;* some may be rated at 10 *s.* per week, some at 15 *s.*, and some at 20 *s.* per week; and they generally make a day's wage in from seven and a half to eight hours.

6871. What would a female earn as the result of a day's work?—I was noticing in last pay that some of the females earned 14 *s.* a week.

6872. And the adults much more?—Yes; the adults earned from 30 *s.* to 35 *s.* per week.

6873. Are there occasionally times when they have not work?—Yes.

6874. Have you had any complaints from your workpeople as to whether pushes were required?—Never.

6875. Have you never discharged any one of them for refusing to work?—I never did.

6876. Evidence has been given to this Committee of instances were workpeople have been threatened to be discharged because they would not submit to them; do you know of any such case?—We have not had any case of that kind.

6877. The Committee have had evidence that occasionally discharge papers have been given to workpeople under the name of quittance papers, that had been so privately marked as to prevent their being employed elsewhere; have you known of such an instance?—I have heard that such a thing has been done, and it has been brought against the bleachers as a charge, but I never knew it in practice in my life. I have had a good deal to do with quittance papers; they certify that such and such persons have been at work in our employ so long, and they are at liberty. In most cases they are confined to that.

6878. Having been engaged upwards of 20 years as a practical man in those

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departments of labour, what is your opinion as to its effects upon the health of the people employed in bleach-works?—Judging from my experience with regard to them I should say that they never have suffered at all in health. In fact, I believe a bleacher is more healthy than any other person in any branch of any other trade or business, such as either the factory hands, or the persons who take in sewing, or those in any other business that I know of, in which a number of people are collected together.

6879. Have you any difficulty at any time in obtaining labour?—We have no more difficulty in obtaining labour than results from any special demand for labour.

6880. Have you none from objections to the nature of the work?—None from objections to the nature of the work. In fact, we are frequently asked to take in parties who have been engaged in other occupations.

6881. Are not you immediately adjoining the agricultural district of Cheshire?—Yes.

6882. Are there any instances where the workpeople have left you to go to mills?—I do not know of any at all.

6883. What kind of rooms do they work in?—The rooms that they work in are very large, they are wide and long rooms; in the principal part of the works the rooms are 16 feet high.

6884. We have heard of the objectionable places in which there are stoves; have you any?—We have stoves, and I do not know how we can do without them; we have stoves, in which there are about four or five men and two boys working.

6885. No women or girls?—No women or girls; but I do not think it at all an unhealthy business, judging from my experience of above 40 years. I have always found the stovers have been a remarkably healthy class.

6886. Are the boys not allowed to remain for a long period in those stoves?—Generally they go into the stoves while the cloths are being hung, which occupies them, perhaps, 20 or 25 minutes, and as soon as the rooms are hung they are released from the stoves altogether till the cloths are dry, so that I do not believe they are half the time at the stoves.

6887. After they are released, where do they go?—If they have any little work to do, such as removing rollers, they go out of the place altogether to remove the rollers there; or if they have not anything particular to do, they go to play at marbles, or anything of that kind.

6888. Have you any clamping-rooms?—No.

6889. What should you say as to the respectability of the workpeople; do you consider them as respectable a class as any other?—I always consider them more respectable than mill hands.

6890. Do they change their employment with you often?—Not often; very rarely.

6891. Have you had cases where families have been continued with you from generation to generation?—I have had, more than one; there is one case where the grandfather worked at it; and his son and daughter have worked in the works, and his grandchildren work there now; that is not a solitary instance; there are several other families in which there are workers of the third generation.

6892. Have you any schools or places of worship in the immediate neighbourhood?—Yes, we have schools as well as chapels in the immediate neighbourhood.

6893. And you have also other descriptions of works, print works and mills, and other employments in your neighbourhood; have you any instances where the workpeople have gone to those other descriptions of work on account of the long hours at the bleach-works?—Never, on account of the long hours; and I have known no instances at all of persons leaving us to go to other mills, excepting that there have been parties who have been brought up all together in one particular employment, who have come to learn the business, and they have not had patience to go through with it.

6894. In Mr. Tremenheere's report he alludes to a person of the name of Richard Partington, who made a statement to him that improper things constantly go on in the bleach-works, in consequence of the young women being kept late at work; is that so?—I think that he could not have had any opportunity of knowing anything of the sort. I have a list of the days he has worked for us, fortnight

fortnight after fortnight, from the time he first came till the time he left us; and from this it appears that in the 12 working days we had in each fortnight for the first year that he was with us, he worked nearly 12 days of 11 hours; but not quite in the second year, 11½ days; in the third year, 11¾ days; in the fourth year, 10½ days; in the fifth year, 11 days; in the next year, 10 days; and in the last year that he worked with us he was only upon the premises 10 days in each fortnight, taking one fortnight with another; and I have a table which will tell how those 10 days were divided; for instance, in one fortnight 8½, another 7½, and another 10¾, and so on. Now, as the time was put down by the parent of the man himself, the tendency is always to put down as much time as possible, in order that they might not be made to appear to receive such large wages for each day's work; it is not likely that the time he says he has worked, in that statement, is correct. He says it has been the same at every place he has worked at, 18 or 20 hours, and sometimes the whole night through, and yet he has made short days at our works.

6895. Do you contradict his statement?—Decidedly; it is not correct.

6896. In your experience have you had any reason to think that such sorts of things do go on at all?—It has not come under my observation at all.

6897. Have many of the young women relatives with whom they are employed, either a father or a brother?—Yes, nearly every one; I find that as much as possible it is the interest of the employers, and also of the employed, that they should congregate together in families, because they are a protection to each other.

6898. Do you find that they reside some distance from the works?—Most of them reside within five or 10 minutes' walk of the works.

6899. Have you had an opportunity of considering the four Bills which have been printed, as regards legislating upon bleach-works?—I do not think that I have read any one of the Bills right through, but from what I have read of them, I do not approve of them at all; I have read portions of them, and especially the last.

6900. In your opinion would such a measure as the last measure be injurious, or otherwise?—I think it would be very injurious.

6901. Would the result of legislation have the effect of encouraging foreign competition?—If I might judge from those observations which have been made to me, I should say that it would have that effect, and also from what I know of the natural tendency of things.

6902. *Chairman.*] I think you said, that occasionally you have had to work 15 hours a-day?—Yes, occasionally.

6903. Do the children who are but 11 and 12 years of age work those hours?—The children of 11 and 12 years of age have worked those hours along with those who are working with them, and who are often their parents.

6904. Have you any children of your own?—Yes, I have.

6905. Have they been engaged in the works?—Not at those works.

6906. Do you think that those long hours are proper for children of that early age to work?—I do not think that they are objectionable in the way that the bleachers work them, because they do not work the whole of the 15 hours; it is not a continuous and monotonous work, as it is in the factory, but they would work a portion of the time, and then another portion of the time they are resting. I have seen the girls sitting, and so on, some sewing and some at crochet work, and some chatting, and some playing with one another, and laughing and joking. It being almost always the case that you cannot have continuous employment during the whole of the time, in consequence of the irregularity of the work coming forward, it is impossible to have a constant regularity, and that is one reason why they would be called upon to work a little longer.

6907. During those 15 hours, are those intervals of rest which they have sufficiently long to enable them to get any sleep?—If they want sleep there would be intervals for that, I am sure, frequently, but they seldom do seem sleepy at the time they give over. At any rate, if I may judge from my own experience when I was a lad, I had to work a great deal longer hours at that time than they do now. I recollect at the time when I was a boy, 40 years ago, when I had to work long hours, that I have had opportunities of getting sleep between the times.

6908. With respect to the stoves, do the boys you have mentioned in the hot stoves ever work 15 hours?—They are not called upon to work as long hours

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as they are in the bleach-works, because they can only be in the stoves up to a certain time, till they have done all the work that is ready for the coming day; and therefore it is not so often the case with them, as they can only go to work as soon as they have work to do; sometimes they work a little longer and sometimes a little shorter, but never more than half the time in the stoves.

6909. You have told us that if you were to refuse any orders that were sent to you the result would be that you would probably lose your order?—I can merely say, that it has been mentioned to me by our customers, that if we cannot get the things done, they must send them off in the gray state, so that we should not get the bleaching at all, nor anyone else in this country, because they are obliged to send the goods off by such a vessel; of that I have had frequent instances.

6910. That is done under the present system, and those who give the orders know that there is no legislative restriction upon your working any number of hours. In the event of legislative restriction being imposed upon the hours of work, do you believe that those who give you those orders would still insist upon your doing what would then be an impossibility?—I believe that we should then lose a considerably larger portion of work than we do now, because they would say "You are restricted from doing it; I could have sent you an order for bleaching, but as you cannot get them done in time, on account of legislation, I must send them out in the gray state."

6911. Do you think that the effect would be to compel the bleaching business to be abandoned?—I think it would very seriously endanger the bleaching business by lessening the amount of bleaching done. I am quite sure of one thing, that considering the amount of gray calicoes that are made now as compared with what there were 20 or 30 years ago, there is not one-third of the bleaching done, in proportion, that there was at the time when I first commenced bleaching.

6912. Is that owing to legislative interference?—Certainly not; but if there was a restriction upon it, it must have a tendency still further to depress the trade.

6913. Do you think it impossible that a legislative restriction might make the merchants who give the orders think a little more than they do, as to the time the orders require to be executed?—I do not think that would be the effect. My opinion is, there would be as much hurry-scurry then as there is now.

Martis, 28° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Dalglish.
Mr. Brett.	Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cheetham.	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Crook.	Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

James Mac Adam, Esq., jun., called in; and Examined.

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6914. Mr. *Kirk*.] DO you reside at Belfast?—I do.

6915. Have you been officially connected with different branches of various manufactures?—I have been, from the year 1844, secretary to the Royal Society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax in Ireland, and since 1852 I have been secretary to the Belfast linen trade committee; I have also acted upon other occasions generally for the Irish trade, both at home and abroad, in matters concerning their general interests, more especially on the Continent, endeavouring to bring about changes in the foreign tariffs, and particularly those of France and Belgium, which were excessive upon our linen manufactures and linen yarns.

6916. During the period of your employment by the Belfast Committee, have you had any opportunity of inquiring into the progress made by the linen manufacturers in the Continental States?—I have made it my particular business to inquire in all the chief countries in which linen is manufactured, both with regard to the extension of trade, and also as to the relative cost of manufacturing in every branch compared with England, Ireland, and Scotland; I have more especially had an opportunity of marking the progress of the trade from having been present at the Paris exhibitions of 1844 and 1848, and at the Brussels exhibition of 1849, and then at the great international exhibitions of London in 1851, and Paris in 1855. At London, in 1851, I was acting as secretary to the Belfast local committee, and had under my charge the entire of the linen department of the whole of Ireland. In 1855, at the Paris Exhibition, I was named by Government, International Juror, and of course, during my stay there, I had an opportunity of inspecting very closely the productions of different countries; the exhibitors were above 4,600. Ultimately, in consequence of my colleague, Mr. Beveridge, of Dumfermline, being obliged suddenly to leave Paris upon domestic business, I had to undertake his section as well as my own; and therefore, all the linens exhibited by all countries, making in all 16,000 different articles, passed through my hands, and I had a close opportunity of judging of them; at the same time, I had occasion to ask the opinion of my fellow-jurors, who were intimately acquainted with the linen manufacturers of the different countries, and matters connected with the wages of labour, as to whether there had been an increase or a decrease in the manufactures of each country; from that time I have made personal inquiries also with regard to the general progress of the linen trade in all countries.

6917. Can you state what you have noticed with regard to the extension of spinning factories in the leading states in Europe?—I have obtained data from the best authorities in each of the countries which may be considered the leading manufacturing countries of Europe, France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia. I find that in France, in 1848, there were only 92,000 spindles for flax, and in 1850 the number had increased to 498,000. In Belgium, in 1844, there were 88,000 spindles, and in 1856, 131,000. In Prussia, in 1846, there were 47,000 spindles, and in 1856, 96,000. In Austria, in 1846, there were 21,000 spindles, and in 1856, 82,000.

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6918. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Those are in the flax manufacture?—Yes.

6919. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do the Governments of those countries give any direct aid to persons erecting flax and spinning factories and linen bleaching works?—They have done so to a considerable extent in every one of those countries; for instance, in Prussia I find, on the commencement of the flax-spinning trade by machinery, the Government offered a large premium to persons setting up in the trade. They gave 10 thalers per spindle, that is 30 *s.* Now, with regard to Ireland, a flax-spinning mill will cost for building, motive power, and machinery, 4 *l.* 10 *s.* per spindle; therefore the Prussian spinner has a direct aid from the Government equal to one-third what it will cost the Irish spinner to put up a mill. Also in Prussia the Government, in the case of bleaching works, has accorded two things, the gift of the machines, both steam-engines and bleaching-work machinery; and, after the lapse of six or seven years, if they have found that those machines have been in use during the six or seven years, the Government has given up its claim to them, and they have lapsed entirely to the manufacturers. In Belgium I know of one case of that sort, with regard to the first bleach green erected upon the Irish system, near Antwerp, belonging to Mr. Wood. The Government in that case gave 125,000 francs (5,000 *l.*) to Mr. Wood, upon the condition that he should erect bleach-works, exactly upon the Irish principle and with the Irish machines. There is also an important advantage accorded in Belgium by the bleachers and the spinners also being permitted to import machinery free of the import duty upon machines if they prove that the machinery is of a novel construction; they make a declaration to that effect before the mayor of the commune, and a Government commissioner is then appointed to inspect the machines, and to see them at work; and then, under the charge of the Chamber of Commerce of the district Government remits the entire amount of the duty upon those machines. Then, there is a very considerable reduction of duty upon the importation of machines, accorded to spinners and bleachers.

6920. Can you state what is the cost of labour on the Continent in these processes as compared with what it is in Ireland and Great Britain?—With regard to the cost of labour, I have ascertained that in the spinning mills it is considerably under what it is in Great Britain and Ireland, in France, and in Belgium, and also in Austria, and some cases in Prussia. And when I say that they are under the wages in Ireland (of course, they are considerably under those of England and Scotland, which are higher than those of Ireland) I may say that in every factory on the Continent the wages are cheaper than with us. With regard to the weaving the wages in some countries are exceedingly cheap. In Rhenish Prussia, Prussian Silesia, Moravia in Austria, and in Bohemia, the wages upon the average which a weaver can make are about from 15 to 30 per cent. cheaper than in Ireland; and while during the last 10 or 15 years, the wages of the weavers have advanced considerably in Ireland, I believe they have remained stationary in foreign countries. There being so large an emigration from Ireland and so much employment, and the population being reduced so much by the famine of 1847, the wages of the weavers have been obliged to be considerably raised. I have every reason to know that no change of any moment has occurred in any other countries on the Continent; the weavers now are paid much about the same rate as they were at the time that they were first established; with regard to bleaching being also cheaper. For instance, in Belgium the system of the bleach-works is generally to give the bleachers their meals, the bleach-works' proprietor provides the food for them. At stated hours they have their meals, and they have a certain sum of money wages in addition to their meals; where they are not fed, which is the case about Ghent, they get two francs a day for 15 hours' work. Now, in Ireland the lowest wages that I know for bleachers is 10 *s.* a week for 10 hours a day. And here you have the Belgian bleacher getting but two francs a day, or twelve francs a week, for 15 hours a day. Wages are also less in the North of France; the general wages are two francs a day, not including meals; their hours of work there are 12 hours, not including meals: 12 hours' labour. As to Austria and Prussia, I have not exactly the figures; but I made them up about two years ago, and there and in other States of Germany the bleachers are paid considerably less than with us.

6921. Have you made any inquiries with respect to the relative cost of the fuel and chemical substances employed in bleach-works in this country and on the Continent?

Continent?—The cost of fuel varies very considerably; I may say, that in all those countries coals are considerably dearer than they are in England. But I have made a calculation, which I can substantiate by facts if necessary, that the cost of coals at Belfast, as compared with the cost of coals at Leeds or at Manchester, is in greater proportion than the cost of coals, say at Schönberg in Moravia, which is a great place for spinning, or at Lille in France, or at Ghent in Belgium, is over the cost in Ireland; that is to say, the relative cheapness of fuel in Ireland over the Continent generally is not so much greater in proportion as the cheapness of fuel at the chief manufacturing places in England is over the cheapness of fuel in Ireland. The cost of fuel in Manchester and Leeds is less than at Belfast, and the cost of fuel in Moravia, in Belgium, or in France, is much greater than it is in Belfast. But the proportion between the increase of the continental prices over those of Belfast, is less than the proportion of the diminution of prices in England as compared with Belfast; that is to say, the foreign manufactories with regard to fuel, are less unfavourably placed as regards Ireland than Ireland is as regards England.

6922. Mr. *Kirk.*] Does that apply to Prussian Silesia?—I cannot exactly tell; the data that I have are chiefly from Austria and from the district about Ghent and Bruges, and Liege, and the Department du Nord in France also.

6923. Were you ever at Freybourg?—No, I was not.

6924. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Does that remark apply to Belgium?—It does apply to Belgium.

6925. Are not there extensive coal fields in Belgium?—There are, about Mons; but I cannot say why coals are dearer in Belgium. They have been importing coals lately into Ghent from Newcastle. I was deputed by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce to be their delegate to the Congress held in Brussels last September upon Tariff Reform, and I had occasion to make up all these calculations upon that, and I have with me a report on the relative cost of labour and fuel presented to the Congress, and published by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce. We pay from 11*s.* to 12*s.* a ton for coals; at Ghent last autumn coals were 14*s.*, but two years ago they were only 10*s.* At Lille coals have been bought at from 13*s.* 6*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*; at Schönberg coals cost 2-4ths of a florin the 1,000 kil., that is about 16*s.* 6*d.* or 17*s.* a ton; but they are a very superior quality. They have, I believe, coals from Moravia cheaper, but those are of a superior quality fully equal to our Newcastle coals. I think they have an inferior kind of coals, something like the coals that are so much employed in Ireland, the Ayr and Whitehaven coals, at a much less price.

6926. Mr. *Kirk.*] What is the result of your observation with regard to the difference of the chemical substances employed in bleaching?—With regard to the chemical substances, at the present time they are obliged to import considerably from England, but I know of several chemical manufactories having been erected in France and Belgium of late years; and I was told by an extensive Belgian bleacher lately, that he has found that he can get nearly as cheap, soda-ash and chloride of lime in Belgium, as we in England can get them; one chemical manufacturer has invented a new process, by which he gains considerably, and has taken out a patent for it, to make these things considerably cheaper.

6927. Do you refer to soda-ash and chloride of lime?—Yes.

6928. Do not they there employ the same mode of making sulphuric acid that is employed in this country?—Yes.

6929. Then the conclusion from all this is, that they can get chemicals as cheaply as we can?—I think upon the whole you may say that they can get them nearly as cheap; but in some places they are dearer than in England.

6930. Has not there been a system of study pursued by persons from the Continent in Ireland, with a view to acquire an intimate knowledge of bleaching and spinning?—Yes; during the last 10 years to which my own observation particularly applies, I have known gentlemen frequently come over to Ireland for the purpose of studying practically the linen manufacture in all its branches in the spinning factories, and at the bleach-works for a lengthened period. I was personally acquainted with four of those gentlemen, and I have found that they were young men, superior upon the whole to the same class here; generally they were the sons or younger brothers of persons engaged in the flax-spinning, and bleaching upon the Continent. The education in the German schools or academies is peculiarly practical; and consequently, almost all those young men arriving in Ireland are pretty fair chemists; the four of whom I speak as being personally

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personally acquainted with them, are now all engaged for themselves, or for their relatives in the spinning and bleaching, or other manufactures; one at Bielefeld, one in Silesia, one at Happendorf, in Moravia, and one at Courtrai, Belgium.

6931. Then your conclusion is, that they have put in practice the information they acquired?—I have every reason to believe so; and I have myself visited one of their concerns at Courtray, which was put up by a gentleman who remained in Ireland for one or two years, and he spent 12,000*l.* erecting it, according to the Irish system; there was formerly a bleach green there, built upon the old system.

6932. Have you had any means of ascertaining whether the linen manufacture, in its different branches, has been improved in those States of the Continent where it is most frequent?—It has been very considerably improved. The improvement in different classes of linen shown in the Paris Exhibition of 1844 and 1848, and the Brussels Exhibition, 1849, as compared with that in the London Exhibition, in 1851, and more particularly with the Paris Exhibition of 1855, was extremely striking, not only in the texture and bleaching of the goods, but also in the general style of finish and ornamentation. They seem to have closely copied the Irish models. I may mention that, having occasion in Paris to adjudge the prizes, I and my colleague found ourselves conscientiously bound to give the highest prizes in many cases away from our own country. The Belgian and French yarns were better, those, at least, we adjudged prizes to, than any thing that we have in the United Kingdom; they were better spun yarns altogether; the French cambrics were naturally superior, but they had acquired particular pre-eminence over ours in point of quality, though as to price we had the advantage. The Austrian and Saxon damasks, and more especially the latter, which always excelled in point of design, are now equally admirable in point of texture and finish. The coarser fabrics from several of the German States were extremely good and strong, and, in many cases, of surprising cheapness, and certain of the same fabrics were cheaper in price. I had occasion to inquire afterwards how some of them were conducted. The fine plain linen fabrics from Belgium were the best shown; possibly, in this case, they had been got up especially for the Exhibition, but at all events the machinery employed by the manufacturers and spinners on the Continent must be excellent to produce these articles. One of the highest prizes was given to Mr. Kramsta, in Prussia, and his goods were considered excellent. The two grand medals of honour were given, one to the town of Valenciennes, and the other to the town of Belfast. The town of Belfast claimed one, and its claim was allowed, in consequence of the well-known opinion that its manufacturers generally made the cheapest class of goods, and the town of Valenciennes for the excellence of the fabric.

6933. Did you observe any imitations of Irish fabrics?—Yes, in the earlier exhibitions that I visited, the foreign goods were very clumsily made up, and the finish was by no means such as would be desired; since then it is evident that through the personal inquiries which the manufacturers had made, and the extent to which they had employed persons from Ireland as foremen and operatives, they had been able to imitate our fabrics very closely, so closely indeed that you could scarcely tell them from the Irish. That does not merely apply to the system of manufacture, but also to the very ornamentation. I took some notes with regard to the ornamentation which are rather curious. I found, in the case of one manufacturer of Stuttgardt, that he had stamped in red upon his goods, "superfine soft finish," in English words. Another manufacturer, it appeared, marked some damasks, in English, "manufactured expressly for family use." Another piece of linen was stamped, in English, "free from any admixture of cotton;" another was marked, "superior soft finish;" another "manufactured and finished expressly for family use."

6934. Mr. *Butt.*] Do you think that those were copied from Irish stamps?—Copied from Irish stamps; they had procured the stamps in imitation of the Irish; they had procured them from the celebrated house of De la Rue, which supplies the ornaments for the Irish. If I had not seen the linens among German linens I should certainly have taken them for Belfast linens, looking at the finish and so forth.

6935. Mr. *Butt.*] Were they meant to sell for Irish linens in foreign markets?—They were meant to sell for Irish linens in foreign markets. It is a strange thing, that we began by ousting the Germans from their great strongholds in South America; and then we were obliged to adopt their terms. For instance, one great export class of Irish linens is called Silesias. Now the Germans are turning

turning the tables upon us, and are creeping into the market by employing our terms.

6936. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you mean to say that in that particular point of view at Paris, their fabrics were equal to the Irish?—Yes; I think that is the general tendency now with the foreign manufacturer to produce quite as good plain linens; a large class of foreign linens is exported to compete with the bulk of our trade; I saw many pieces quite as good as any made in Ireland; and if I had gone through the Paris Exhibitions of 1844 and 1848, and the Brussels Exhibition of 1849, I should not have found a single piece able to compare with ours.

6937. Then do you think that their equality or, in some cases, superiority has arisen within the last 10 years?—I have not a doubt of it.

6938. Do you know if there has been any increase in the exports from Belgium of certain goods to markets, where Ireland had formerly the chief share of the supply?—Yes; with regard to goods, there is a very large quantity of Belgian goods now sold in Italy and Spain, where we had the lion's share of the trade a short time before; in some cases goods from Courtray have been entirely displacing Irish goods in the Spanish markets. To other places also, and more especially to Brazil, a vast quantity of Belgian and German goods are going out. They are beginning to creep into the United States; but nothing like to the same extent.

6939. Does that arise, in your opinion, from the change in the Belgian tariff which took place some years ago?—To some extent as regards Belgium. The Belgian Government were, during the time they were creating their machine spinning trade, acting upon what we conceive to be a very false principle of government. They were nursing their trade by putting on large duties on our yarns; and consequently the Belgian yarns were very dear, and the fabrics made from them could not compete with us in foreign markets, because they enhanced the cost so much. There was an advantage, but it is a curious one, conceded by the Government; the Government accorded to the manufacturer a full remission of the duty upon our yarns, provided they bring to the douane exactly the same weight of linen for export. They would not allow the Belgian people to have cheap linens; but they would allow the Belgian manufacturer to make a great deal of money in this way; and in fact the trade between Belgium and France, which is a great injury to our trade, arises from a differential duty for the protection of Belgium, which has been created by the French Government.

6940. Mr. *Butt.*] Does that differential duty exist now?—Yes.

6941. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is it the fact that the Belgians get English or Irish yarn duty free, manufacture them into cloth, and send them into France at half the duty which the French charge upon the Irish, who are the makers of them?—Yes.

6942. Is that the main cause of the decline in the consumption of Irish and Scotch linens in Paris?—I should not say that it was the main cause of the decline; because if France maintained for all countries the same ratio of duty, very little foreign linen would be consumed at all. Her giving to Belgium a special favour, that he is permitted to export brown linens, at a reduced rate, which would have otherwise to pay the full rate of French duty, is a thing that I have paid great attention to; and I have endeavoured, vainly in some cases, to obtain an alteration. When this duty was first laid on the French spinning trade was in its infancy, and it was intended to be 20 per cent., a rate which we should not have considered very hard. But the spinners pressed to get the duty laid on in such a way by weight, that in place of 20 per cent. it was, in the lowest case, 33 per cent., and in the highest upwards of 60 per cent., which duties remain the same to the present day, although in the interim the cost of spinning yarns has been so materially reduced by improvements in the manufacture, that at the present moment the ratio of the duty is very much greater than it was in the years 1841 and 1842, when the duty was laid on by France.

6943. Are the Committee to understand that the price of yarns is higher in Belgium and Germany than in Ireland?—Yes. The price of yarns spun in those countries is generally higher. It is not very much higher now, and in certain times we find they are almost as cheap. But from the yarns which Belgium obtains from us free of duty they make linens and export them to other markets in France. About two years ago, at Lille, yarns were sold which could actually have been brought into Belfast and sold at a profit, and yet the French maintain, at the present moment, the present duty.

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6944. You stated that the proprietors or managers of spinning factories and bleach works have studied the subject in Ireland. Have they invited over there any operatives from the United Kingdom?—Yes; many. In Ghent I am sure there are many hundred Irish operatives. One case occurred, which perhaps some of the Committee may remember, of alleged ill-treatment of some Irish workers by the proprietors of a spinning mill near Liege; and on that occasion, I believe, in the course of the evidence, which, however, proved that the proprietors were not guilty, it was stated that there were 47 Irish workers in the mill. There are also a very considerable number of English and Irish factory workers. And in the case of the bleach greens I know many cases in which persons have been employed from Ireland, both foremen and operatives. There is a large bleach green in Brussels where the foreman is a North of Ireland man, and in Mr. Vercruysse's green, at Courtray, there are some Irishmen. I do not know whether there are still, but there were 12 or 15 operatives. In Bielefeld there are a great number, and in Elberfeld also; and at Stuttgardt the principal linen manufacturer has an Irish foreman; and there are very few of the large spinning mills throughout Prussia and Austria, where there are not one or two Irish or English workers.

6945. Generally speaking, is the spinning machinery English or Irish?—It is generally speaking of Leeds manufacture. In spinning machinery they have had an enormous trade on the Continent. In the year 1841 our Government permitted the importation of machinery, free of duty. The Belgians have been availing themselves largely of our machinery, and they have also made a considerable improvement in the making of machines. At Liege they have made spinning machines and bleaching machines remarkably well. Now, in many cases machines are taken out from here and enter there duty free, and serve as models, and others are made by them. At Lille also they are turning out some very good spinning machines now.

6946. Is it not now generally known and believed that they get these models for the express purpose, and they have persons upon the look-out for any improvements in machinery which will be brought there, and used in the manner you have described?—It is. In the case of Belgium, the Government only permits the importation of machines free of duty in the event of the whole or some particular portion of them being of novel construction, and the result is, that some trickery goes on. A small portion of a machine is made in a particular way different from what it was before, so that the person importing it can swear that it is of a novel construction, and then it goes in free of duty. I have reason to believe, from what I have heard in conversation, that not only do the spinners import these machines, but also the machine-makers themselves in order to obtain models to make others by.

6947. Do foreign governments afford any honorary distinction to persons who have contributed by their exertions to improve the manufactures of the country?—Yes, almost all. The continental governments have rather a different notion from our Government upon that point; they do not conceive that men who have distinguished themselves by carrying out improvements in manufacture and commerce are a whit less deserving of honorary rewards than distinguished commanders, or men who have shown themselves able, in the different departments of the civil service, which I believe is almost the only class here who obtain any honorary distinctions. To give an instance in point; there are two manufacturers in France, both of whom have aided in extending the linen manufacture; one is Mr. Scrive, of Lille; he is the largest flax-spinner in France; he has spared no expense to improve the various processes, and has, in fact, created a spinning trade in the country. The other is M. Cohin, of Paris, the largest linen manufacturing house in France. The exertions of these two men have been very great indeed; and they have also been very civil in giving information to those seeking it, and they have helped to nurse the trade to its present excellence. At the close of the Exhibition of Paris, when the honorary distinctions were being given by the Emperor, M. Scrive was raised from the grade of "Chevalier" to that of "Grand Officier" of the Legion of Honour; and M. Cohin, who had not been previously decorated, received the decoration of "Chevalier"; I believe he had the two grades in two successive gazettes. And I also heard of many others in Prussia and Austria being decorated; one in particular, my fellow juror in Paris, a young Austrian, was decorated upon that occasion.

6948. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Was not that also the case in Austria?—Yes.

6949. Mr.

6949. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do you believe that this is a great incitement to the manufacturers, or that self-interest alone is the greatest stimulus?—Self-interest is the greatest stimulus; at the same time I believe that these distinctions are highly prized, and that they tend to make others press forward in the same course, because it is not merely that the manufacturers who have distinguished themselves by the development of a particular branch of trade have done it with the hope of making money, but they have done it with a degree of enthusiasm, they have spoken of it with a sort of *amour propre*. These distinctions have been received with the greatest delight in the world; and I have not the slightest doubt that many other rising manufacturers, seeing that their brethren in the trade have been thus distinguished, have endeavoured to aim at the same distinctions, irrespective altogether of self-interest and making money.

6950. Is there any Government interference on the Continent with the hours of labour in factories and bleach works?—I am not aware of any interference anywhere in any foreign countries in bleach works; in fact, I know that the hours that the people work are merely those that the masters may wish. In Belgium the general hours are, in the summer time, from three o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening. But should there be a pressure of work, all the people employed, men, women, and children will go on to any hour that the master bleacher requires. In the case of spinning factories I am not aware in Germany, or in Belgium, of any State interference with the hours of labour. There is a supervisor, but his supervision entirely relates to reports. For instance, in Belgium there is a particular department devoted to that object; I happen to know the gentleman at the head of it. He is called, "Inspecteur des Affaires Industrielles sous le Ministre de l'Interieur," and his office is to make a general report to the Government upon the progress of manufactures throughout Belgium founded upon an inspection each year. But in no way does he interfere with the time the workpeople are employed in the different manufacturing establishments.

6951. Having given that answer, will you state what is your opinion as to the probable effect of the proposed legislation upon our foreign trade in linens?—I think it would have the most pernicious effect; because already we find that labour on the Continent is generally much cheaper than ours. We find that they have been creeping up to us till they run a fair chance of distancing us in point of quality. I think that hitherto we have had the supremacy so much in the linen manufacture, that we are becoming careless, and we shall have to compete with their cheap labour when our labour is becoming dearer; and if Government were to interfere further by reducing the hours of labour in our bleach works, it would seriously damage our trade. Supposing, for instance (I daresay the Committee are aware of such things), an order coming in for a large quantity of goods to be prepared for a certain market, and to be forwarded by the next steamer, and supposing that some house in Belgium or Germany, if a bleacher there, might make up his goods and work his people to any hour until he was ready, he might hand over the goods before we could; but we are obliged to work certain hours a day. If the Government said, You shall not work any more, you could not compel them; and they, therefore, would have the advantage over you, because in the market the rule will be, "First come first take." I conceive that you would be in the most dangerous predicament if the hours of labour were interfered with. And they have a further advantage which no bleach greens in Ireland have. I could not conceive any more healthy occupation than bleaching. It always struck me that it was one of the most delightful manufacturing occupations that I ever saw; they have plenty of air and plenty of water, which produce cleanliness among the people who work there. I think that has a tendency to create habits of cleanliness that are most beneficial. I have observed many cases of it; for instance, there is one up the valley of the Six Mile River in the county of Antrim, where the workers' houses are perfect models of cleanliness and neatness, and the same remark applies to other bleaching greens.

6952. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Does not your evidence apply solely to linen bleaching?—It applies solely to linen bleaching.

6953. Have you had an opportunity of investigating any cotton bleach-works?—I have never seen one.

6954. Have you ever had an opportunity of investigating any dye-works?—I have never seen any dye-works.

6955. You have alluded in your evidence to Elberfeld; are there not large

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dye-works at Elberfeld?—There are large dye-works at Elberfeld, but I only looked to the linen-works; I never looked at the dye-works.

6956. Were you aware that there were dye-works?—I believe so.

6957. Did you visit them?—Never.

6958. In those linen and bleaching works which you had an opportunity of investigating, what were the average hours of work?—In the lowest case 12 hours a day, as a regular system, and in the highest 15.

6959. Have you ascertained that they are subject to what are called pushes, like those in this country, arising from the same causes?—Yes, arising from the same causes, more especially since they have begun to gain ground more in foreign markets.

6960. In any investigations which you made, did you find any English or Irish goods under the process of bleaching in foreign bleach works?—No.

6961. Had you an opportunity of investigating the social condition of the working people in those countries?—Yes, I had.

6962. What is their situation there as compared with those in this country?—They look very comfortable, and, in fact, I think they are much better off; they can get their food a great deal cheaper, more especially in the countries along the Rhine and in Belgium, than it is with us in Ireland; and the people, from their habits and tastes and customs, can make a great deal more of the same quantity of food than the Irish workers can. The houses also cost less rent than the cottages of the workers in Ireland.

6963. Do you believe that they possess the same amount of comfort that they do in this country?—Decidedly; I should say in most cases more so.

6964. Have you had any opportunity of investigating the state of education among them?—Yes, and I find that, both in the case of the Government and in the case of individual employers, a good deal of attention is paid to the education of the workpeople, and the intelligence of the workers is very great indeed; I should say, very much superior to the mass of the operatives in the north of England.

6965. Have you had any opportunity of investigating the factories?—Yes; I have seen most of the flax-spinning factories in Ireland.

6966. Have you also made any observations upon the state of the workers in those mills?—Yes.

6967. How do they compare with the workers in the bleach works?—The workers in the bleach works are decidedly more healthy, cleanly, and comfortable looking.

6968. Bleaching being an out of door employment?—Bleaching being an out of door employment; and besides, the work is much more cleanly in the bleach works. In the flax mills there is a quantity of dust flying about, and the passing of the flax through the hot water creates such a steam, that it is difficult to keep the people cool and clean. In the bleach works of course there is no such thing.

6969. *Chairman.*] Do I rightly understand you to say that coal and the chemical substances are dearer on the Continent than they are in England?—Coal is dearer on the Continent than in England; with regard to chemical substances, in several parts of the Continent they are much about upon a par with us in point of price.

6970. Are they dearer in any of those countries that you have mentioned than they are in England?—In some of them they are.

6971. Do not you say that wages are less on the Continent than in England?—Wages in all cases are less.

6972. Balancing one against the other, upon which side does the advantage lie?—The balance is decidedly in favour of the Continent; I have made close calculations as to the amount of money paid in wages, and the amount paid for fuel, and for chemical substances, and that is the result.

6973. But the wages, as you say, are considerably lower in the foreign bleach-works than in the Irish bleach-works; what is it that induces the Irish workers to go there?—I believe they give higher wages to the workers who come over from here than they do to their own people; they take them over, in fact, to train their own workers, and in the course of a few years they dispense with their services. In the oldest spinning factories at Lille you will find no Irishmen; in the case of the bleach works, they pay higher wages to the Irish managers and the Irish operatives than they would get in Ireland, to induce them to go over; and after staying

staying there a few years, they conceive that their own workpeople are sufficiently trained to do without them.

6974. Have you had instances in which the Irish operatives have been dismissed?—I have known many instances in which they have returned to Ireland.

6975. While they were abroad, were they employed at higher wages than they get in Ireland?—Yes.

6976. Mr. *Butt.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that the Irish linens going into France pay a higher duty than Belgian linens?—Yes.

6977. Is that especially favourable to Belgium?—Yes.

6978. Supposing the linens were imported from America, or from any other place, would they pay the same duties as Irish linens?—Yes, the duty was conceived upon the old principle of the Methuen Treaty against England and Portugal, Belgium has been made the most favoured country in those things, upon the condition that she made France the most favoured country in other things.

6979. Can you tell how long that existed?—I cannot exactly say. I should think it was established in 1845; it was done, but not without a dispute, in consequence of the French spinners petitioning against it.

6980. Are there many factories in Belgium?—Yes; there are about 25 flax spinning factories.

6981. Is there any favour shown by the French tariff to the importation of the manufacture of the Belgian cotton factories?—I am not aware of the circumstances with regard to cotton at all.

6982. Are you not able to say whether cotton goods imported from Belgium have any advantage over English goods?—I am pretty certain that they have not. There are very few articles admitted from Belgium under the privileged tariff. Linen constitutes one class, coals another, and iron a third; the French in return are permitted to export to Belgium silks and *articles de Paris*, and some one or two other things.

6983. Does not this tariff appear to be prejudicial to the staple manufactories of Ireland, and not to the staple manufactories of England?—We can hardly consider the linen manufacture as exclusively Irish, because the Scotch branch of it is very large indeed, and also England has her linen manufacture. We consider it an Irish manufacture because it is our only staple.

6984. Are you able to give the Committee any information as to whether there were restrictions upon the hours of work of any foreign manufacturers?—I have stated that, in the countries I visited, there are no restrictions upon the hours of the bleach works. With regard to the factories, I know that there is nothing to limit the hours of labour in Belgium, Austria, and Prussia; the factories are under inspection in Belgium, but the inspection has reference to the drawing up of reports for the Government annually, as to the progress of trade. The places where such trade is carried on in Belgium are generally denominated factories, and the visits of the inspectors (one of whom I personally know) are confined to obtaining the requisite information, to enable them to report before the Government; and with regard to the claims made by the manufacturers for the remission of the duty upon merchandise.

6985. Are you aware whether there is any restriction upon the hours of work of children by the laws of any continental country?—The only restriction that I know of, is in Lille, where the children in the spinning mills are only permitted to work a certain number of hours; I think 12, but I cannot state exactly what they are.

6986. Is that law peculiar to Lille, or is it universal through France?—It is universal through France, in the case of the flax spinning factories.

6987. Is there a restriction upon the labour of children in the factories all through France?—In the spinning factories alone, not in the bleach works; it applies to the factories, and also at Lille and throughout the *Departement Du Nord*, there is a system of weaving, not in the houses of the poor of the country as in Ireland, and as in Germany, but in large rooms; and the workers in those things, and also the children, are brought under the same rules as apply to spinning factories.

6988. Was it any part of your special occupation to inquire as to what those laws regulating the labour of young people were?—I did not inquire.

6989. You cannot say that they were not restricted to 10 or eight hours?—I think I can, because I have a letter here which I received the other day from a Lille spinner, where he speaks of children, under 12 years of age, being restricted to spinning or weaving for 12 hours a day.

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6990. At what age are the children allowed to work 12 hours a day?—I cannot tell you the age.

6991. Do you know what penalties are imposed for the infringement of that law?—I do not.

6992. Can you say whether there is any restriction in Prussia?—There is not any restriction, as far as I am aware, in the factories in Prussia, but I will not state for certain; I am not aware of any.

6993. Are you unable to tell the Committee how long the people work?—I have seen the bleach greens in the neighbourhood of Lille at work at seven o'clock in the evening, and I presume that the hours worked are the same in France as in Belgium, because the arrangements generally in France and in Belgium are the same; there is such a constant passage of Belgian labourers into the French works, and if they find themselves under certain restrictions they would go across the frontier again into their own country.

6994. Do you think that they are so much mixed up together, that if they were under restrictions upon one side of the frontier, and not upon the other, that would lead to the transference of labour?—It would lead to the transference of labour; the wages of course would be entirely regulated by the length of time which the people worked.

6995. Are there factories in France, on the Belgian frontier?—Yes, there are a great number close upon the frontier.

6996. Is not it your impression that there is a restriction upon the hours of labour in France but not in Belgium?—Yes, I believe it to be so. The population is very dense in Belgium, upon the other side of the frontier. The Belgian spinning trade is a small thing in comparison with that in France; the Belgians have altogether only 131,000 spindles, but in Lille and its environs alone there are 130,000.

6997. Is it a fact that the person who is under restriction upon one side of the frontier does not transfer his capital and labour to the other side of the frontier, where he can work without restriction?—He does not do it.

6998. Do I rightly understand you to say, that the spinning factories in France are much more numerous than those in Belgium?—They are; that is to say, only in point of number, but if you take the importance of the countries into consideration, Belgium has as large a proportion.

6999. The effect of the restriction of the hours in France has not been to drive the trade across the frontier?—It has not; but the French spinners have an extraordinary bonus in the shape of an enormous duty upon foreign yarns, although Belgian yarns are permitted to be imported into France at a low rate of duty as compared with those of other countries; yet they are restricted to 4½ millions of kilogrammes.

7000. Would you attribute the prosperity of the spinning trade of France to those restrictions?—I should attribute it almost entirely to the very heavy duty which is laid upon all foreign yarns, in consequence of which the French spinner, except in times of commercial crisis, such as occurred two years ago, can obtain for his yarns a price much higher than the English or Irish spinner can obtain; he can have his raw materials as cheap; he can have his labour cheaper, and consequently he makes a larger profit than the English spinner does; and the population of France is obliged to consume their own linens with the exception of a small amount that comes from Belgium, and the loss to the French I have calculated to be two millions of pounds sterling annually.

7001. But the spinning trade is prosperous in consequence of it?—Just so.

7002. Mr. *Kirk*.] Is not the lowest rate of duty upon Belgian goods at least 17½ per cent.?—I cannot say exactly; I think it is about 20.

7003. Is not the tariff regulated by two modes, by the weight, and by the number of threads in a quarter of an inch?—Yes, the second mode is called the verification.

7004. And therefore the goods must be of a certain texture, and possessed of a certain weight, in order to pay a certain duty?—Yes.

7005. The least duty being something about 20 per cent., and the highest something about 35 per cent.?—Yes, the highest will be about 35 or 38 per cent.

7006. Mr. *Butt*.] Could you give the Committee any information as to the amount of employment given to the population of France by the spinning trade?—I can give a calculation of it, but it is based entirely upon the knowledge of the number

number of workers which it takes to attend a certain number of spindles; you may say that there are 20,000 spinning operatives in France.

7007. Do you give it as your opinion, that the Irish bleaching operation is a healthy one?—Yes.

7008. Of course you limit your opinion entirely to the bleaching of linen carried on constantly in the open air, and not to the chemical processes carried on in close rooms?—I do; but I have also some slight knowledge of stoves where the temperature is very considerably above that of the open air, and the workers have appeared all healthy.

7009. As a matter of fact, do you know of any case in the Irish bleach works in which children under the age of 14 or 15 have been employed in them?—I am not aware of any; I have not had the means of ascertaining that.

7010. Are you aware that there has been overwork among the young persons in the Irish bleach works?—I think that if there were great overwork, I must have heard of it incidentally; being professionally connected with the trade, and meeting so much with people constantly engaged in the different branches of the manufacture, there is hardly a point in the trade that I do not hear discussed at some time or other.

7011. Mr. *Kirk.*] But you never did hear of it?—I never did hear of it.

7012. Mr. *Butt.*] Is it your impression that with regard to young people, there is not overwork in the Irish bleach works?—That is my impression.

7013. Supposing that a law were passed prohibiting young persons from working in the bleach works more than 12 hours a day, would you be of opinion that that would be injurious to the linen trade?—I have not the slightest doubt of it, because in cases of a press of work it would be impossible to do that work; you may say that you only stop the children of tender years, but you cannot stop any particular branch of employment without disorganising all the rest.

7014. Does not your answer assume that when pushes come, children are worked long hours?—I should think it might have been so in the case of pushes.

7015. Have not you given it as your opinion that prohibiting the Irish bleachers from working their children more than 12 hours a day would destroy the trade?—I think it would be most injurious to the trade.

7016. Are you able to say whether now, in point of fact, they work more than 12 hours a day?—I am unable to say positively, but I should suppose that if there has been a pressure of work they have been obliged to do so.

7017. Is not that a mere supposition?—That is a mere supposition.

7018. Are you able to inform the Committee, of your own knowledge, whether young children under 14 years of age have worked more than 12 hours a day in the Irish bleach greens?—No; because I never was on a bleach green, or in the lapping-rooms at night.

7019. Will you tell the Committee upon what you found your opinion, that a prohibition upon the employ of children for more than 10 hours would destroy the Irish trade?—Upon the simple reason that every person who is acquainted with the system of doing business in the trade, knows that orders arrive very suddenly, to be executed very suddenly; and if you stop a great number of persons employed from working long hours, if the manufacturer requires it to make up his goods which may be required for a certain steamer, you prevent him from being able to execute the order.

7020. Would you consider that if we passed an Act of Parliament preventing children under 15 from being worked in any bleach works for more than 12 hours a day you would injure the Irish trade?—I should.

7021. Then I ask you whether, as a matter of fact, you have inquired whether children were worked more than 12 hours a day?—I have not, but I have given my reasons why I supposed that it would be a detriment to the trade.

7022. As a matter of fact, you do not know whether they work more than 12 hours or not?—I do not know whether they work more than 12 hours or not.

7023. Then is not your opinion with regard to the effect of the legislative provision, that they should not work more than 12 hours a day, subject to the remark that you do not know whether they ever do work 12 hours a day?—The question was put to me as a man who knows something of the general system of work in Ireland, and I stated that I believed it would be to the detriment of the Irish trade if the hours of labour, for a certain class of people, were restricted to 12 hours a day, and in reply to a further question, I gave my reasons for holding that opinion. I conceive that it is not very material to the point whether I am

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actually in possession of knowledge which will enable me to state that children do work those long hours.

7024. Supposing that such a thing had never occurred as a child being employed for 12 hours, do you think that legislation would injure the trade?—The question contains an assumption which merely from hearsay, from others, and from reading the evidence, I do not believe to be the case. Although from my own personal knowledge I cannot tell you that it is so, yet other people have stated that in times of pressure they must be worked beyond that time.

7025. Am I not right in saying that your opinion that legislation would injure the trade must depend upon the fact of children being employed in the trade more than 12 hours a day?—My opinion is founded upon the impression that the stopping of one branch of labour would necessitate the stopping of other branches, and would prevent the manufacturer completing his orders.

7026. Must not the injury inflicted upon the trade by legislation depend upon the fact that at present children are worked more than 12 hours a day?—It must; but there is a wide difference between the working of children, perhaps occasionally during long hours, and their being worked constantly. I should be very sorry myself to see the young persons worked all the night, or half the night, the whole year through; but in a case of two or three days, when there was an occasional necessity for overwork, I conceive that there could be no possible harm done to the children.

7027. Would not the extent of interference with the trade appear to depend upon the frequency of those hours of overwork?—Of course.

7028. Supposing that the children rarely were overworked, would not the prohibition in a legislative enactment produce very little danger?—The orders which it affected might be the most profitable throughout the whole year to the manufacturer.

7029. Would not the interference caused to the manufacturer depend upon the frequency of the overhours?—Yes.

7030. And, therefore, if it were a rare thing for the children in the Irish bleach works to work more than 10 hours a day, would not the interference be small?—I do not think that that question should be considered in that way. In my opinion the great point is to have no interference whatever.

7031. Is the Committee to understand that the evidence you have given is founded upon a general impression, and not upon special facts connected with the Irish trade?—I have given a number of facts upon which I have founded my opinion.

7032. What are the special facts connected with the bleaching trade upon which you have grounded your opinion, that limiting the hours of work to 12 hours would be injurious?—I have stated more than once that when the foreign manufacturer who can work overhours when he pleases, with the very low prices of labour, is beginning to compete with us in the most dangerous manner, if you limit our hours of work you will only give another advantage to the foreign manufacturer against us.

7033. Is that a matter of fact, or a matter of opinion?—It is a fact that on the Continent there is no restriction on the hours of labour.

7034. Can you state any fact connected with the working of the bleach works in Ireland, to show that it will be injurious to prevent the children being worked more than 12 hours?—The fact is, that the bleachers are obliged to work overtime to complete the orders that come to them, and if you prevent them from doing so, you put them in a false position.

7035. Do you state the fact, that in the Irish bleach works they work overhours?—I know it; as I have said, I cannot speak to it from my own personal knowledge, but it is pretty well known to the trade that such a thing is done.

7036. From the information you have derived from what is going on around you, do you state to the Committee that children are ever worked more than 12 hours a day?—Yes.

7037. From the same source of information, do you think that they work 15 or 16 hours?—I could not tell the number of hours.

7038. Supposing that an Act were passed, limiting the hours for children to 10 hours, what difference would that make in the price of Irish linen?—I conceive that the difference with regard to price would not be at all a material point; it would be the absolute impossibility in many cases of the bleachers finishing their orders, to turn them out for the foreign markets; because, speaking specially with

with regard to the foreign markets of South America and North America, orders are now executed sometimes in a great hurry, and they are shipped in a great hurry, and if the manufacturer finds he is restricted in making up the goods, there is no doubt the Belgian and German linens will be sent across sooner than ours, and will command the market.

7039. Then it is not an enhancement of price that you look to?—I conceive that if you limit the hours of labour, you would increase the cost of manufacture.

7040. Have you seen the Bills before this Committee?—Yes.

7041. Have you estimated how much the Act restraining children from working more than 12 hours a day would enhance the price of linens in South America?—I have not.

7042. Have you estimated how much it would alter the price of bleaching?—I have not.

7043. Have you estimated what proportion it will bear to the price of the manufactured article?—I could have made all these calculations if I had known that they would have been asked for; but I have not done so.

7044. But still you have given an opinion that it would enhance the price of labour?—Yes.

7045. But to what extent it will enhance the price of labour you cannot say?—I cannot say.

7046. Do you think that it would enhance the price 10 per cent.?—I cannot say.

7047. Do I rightly understand you to say that you cannot form an opinion as to whether an Act such as this would or would not enhance the price of the manufactured article 10 per cent.?—I decline altogether to give an opinion unless I founded my answer upon proper data.

7048. Have you read Mr. Tremenheere's report?—Yes.

7049. Have you turned your attention to that part of the report in which he has stated that the enhancement of the price would be so trifling as to be imperceptible?—It has been so stated.

7050. Have you made calculations as to the amount of loss it would inflict?—To the manufacturer it would be extremely great, and also to the bleacher. If he is limited in the time of his labour, the cost of getting up a certain amount of goods would be greater.

7051. Have you seen the evidence which has been given by some of the Manchester merchants?—No; I have not looked specially over the English evidence. I was anxious to look at the Irish part of Mr. Tremenheere's examination.

7052. Are you yourself practically acquainted with the mode in which orders are given?—I have heard frequently that orders have to be sent by the return mail packet (a large amount of goods go by the steamer, hardly any by sailing vessels) and they must be executed in a certain time.

7053. Do not you think that these orders are given because the persons who give them know that they can be executed?—Yes.

7054. Supposing that from any cause there was an impossibility in executing them in the time, do not you think that the effect of that would be that longer time would be given for the order?—No, I do not; I think that the order would go abroad; at the present time we find it hard to compete with the foreign markets; but if the foreign buyers found that we could not execute their orders to the time they would transfer them at once to Bielefeld or Courtray.

7055. Did I rightly understand you to say that the occasional overworking of children would not injure them?—I should think not.

7056. But that you would object to constant overworking?—I should not like to see children worked the whole night, or half the night for the year through.

7057. Would you like to see a child worked the whole night for a fortnight successively?—I should not.

7058. Supposing it were true that children were worked four months successively from five in the morning till nine at night, what should you say to that?—I should say that the manufacturer was reprehensible; but I do not think that on account of an instance of hardship the whole body should be judged. If you made that rule you might interfere with every branch of employment, because you find in all hard task-masters.

7059. Would you repeal the factory laws?—I can scarcely offer an opinion upon that point. I have a good deal in my own mind *pro* and *con* the Factory Act, but there is one matter connected with the factory system which does not

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apply to the bleach greens, and that is the heat and the dust in the spinning-rooms, which I conceive to be extremely injurious to the health of the persons employed a great number of hours in them.

7060. Are the Committee to understand you to say that quite independently of the general question of interference, you do not consider that there is a necessity for interference in the Irish bleach works?—I do not consider that there is, and I judge particularly from the health of the persons employed in them, which I have noticed particularly.

7061. Mr. *Kirk.*] I think you have read the proposed Bills?—I have.

7062. Did you happen to read the definition of the word child; which is as follows: "the word child should be taken to mean a child under the age of 11 years"?—Yes.

7063. I presume that the Honourable Member who drew this Bill was speaking of children under 11 years of age, when he used the word child; in the questions which he put to you. Do you believe that there is any child under 11 years of age employed in the bleach works in Ireland?—I never saw any. I took the word "child" to mean those under 15. I do not remember ever seeing a child so young employed, and I cannot believe that any can be employed so young as that.

7064. In that case all your answers with regard to a child go for nothing?—I had taken it in my mind to mean a person under 15 years of age.

7065. Mr. *Butt.*] Will you let me read you this part of the clause, "the words 'young person' shall be taken to mean a person between the age of 11 and 18 years." Is not that so?—Yes.

7066. No children under 11 years of age are allowed to be employed at all. Would you consider that objectionable?—In that point of view it would be quite unnecessary, for I believe that if there are any, there are very few employed, but it might be found desirable, at some future time, to employ children at that age in a particular sort of business.

7067. Would you consider that that provision would do any harm to the Irish trade?—I do not consider that that provision would do any harm to the Irish trade.

7068. As far as the provision relating to children is concerned, you do not think it would interfere with the Irish trade?—No.

7069. Suppose that there were a provision relative to young persons, that no young person—that is, no person between the ages of 11 and 18, is to work between six and six, do you think that that would be injurious to the trade?—I do.

7670. Are there young persons employed in the Irish bleach works between the ages of 11 and 18?—Yes.

7071. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would it be practicable for the young persons in the Irish bleach works at any time between the 1st of November and the 1st of February, to begin work at six in the morning?—It would be quite impossible; in the spinning factories they could easily do it, but they could not in the bleach greens.

7072. Could they work till six in the evening?—No, they would not have light enough.

7073. Therefore they could not, even supposing this Bill is passed, absolutely obey it, for they could not begin at six, and they could not work till six?—It would be practically impossible.

7074. Mr. *Butt.*] Therefore, for six months in the year, any restriction would be inoperative?—It would be inoperative.

7075. Is it not therefore clear that it would do no harm?—It would do this harm; that the bleachers would be obliged to let these girls begin their work when they had sufficient light in the morning, and to leave off work when the light ceased, and to pay them a day's wages for it.

7076. Mr. *Kirk.*] If these persons cannot begin till eight o'clock in the morning, either at out-of-doors work, or at in-doors work, is there any practical evil in their remaining at their work till seven or eight o'clock in the evening?—Certainly not.

7077. Would not this Bill, which obliges them to begin at six o'clock, and prevents them from working after six, have a very injurious effect?—Yes.

7078. Supposing, for instance, that the bleacher or the manufacturer at Belfast receives an order by post, about half-past eight or nine in the morning of Saturday, would it not be a very grievous evil to him if he was obliged to shut up his works at two o'clock in the afternoon?—Certainly; because if he was calculating

calculating upon sending these goods off upon Saturday night, to be in time for the Sunday mail steamer, it would be impossible for him to do it if he had so few hours to work.

7079. Is it not well known that the shipments upon Saturday at Belfast are the largest in the week?—They are.

7080. Does that apply to shipments for Liverpool, to be transferred to vessels at Liverpool for the different parts of the globe?—I have not a doubt of it; I can state that more especially, because my official duty is to examine the exports of linens which are made out from the different steam-packet offices, and I know that the end of the week is always the great time for shipping.

7081. Is not there in progress a continual inclination, both on the part of the employers and the employed, to have shorter hours of labour?—Yes decidedly; there has been a great tendency towards that of late years.

7082. And that without any legislative provision whatever?—Certainly.

7083. Is not there another effect likely to arise from legislative interference, namely, distrust between the employers and the employed?—That I conceive to be one of the gravest points connected with legislative interference; it quite destroys all the good feeling that exists between the employer and the employed. If you give the employed an idea that they have another authority to refer to besides the master, to whom they could appeal if they thought their master was going on badly; if an evil disposition affects them, they will exercise that right, so as to inflict considerable annoyance upon their employers. I believe that the best possible feeling exists between the employers and the employed in the Irish bleach greens at this moment, certainly more so than between the employers and employed in the spinning mills.

7084. Have you read a particular clause in the proposed Bill with regard to that point, which is as follows: "All persons wilfully obstructing the inspectors or sub-inspectors in exercising any of the said powers, shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be subject in each case" to certain penalties?—Yes, I have.

7085. And the owner of any bleaching work in which an inspector or sub-inspector shall be obstructed by any attempt to prevent him from making a full and complete examination of all parts of the bleaching works, and of every person employed therein, shall be liable to the penalty provided by the said Act, in the case of like obstruction in print works?—I have read that.

7086. Do not you conceive that that would be an objectionable clause in any Act of Parliament?—It would be exceedingly unpleasant for any manufacturer to have his works subject to the visits of inspectors.

7087. Does not this clause give an extraordinary power to the inspectors completely at variance with the liberty of the subject?—I should not like it at all myself.

7088. Mr. *Butt.*] Are you aware that that clause is taken from the Print Works Act?—I have not seen it in operation, but I know that the manufacturers have the greatest objection to it, and I think it would not be the intention of the Committee to take away their rights by Act of Parliament.

7089. Are not you aware that the factories and the print works are subject to it?—The factories object to it as unpleasant and unreasonable, as far as it applies to them.

7090. Then in fact the objections which you have made to this Bill will apply equally to the Factory Act, with regard to that point?—Certainly, I think that a most disagreeable and inquisitorial office is committed to the factory inspectors.

7091. Mr. *Kirk.*] Would not the working of the clause which I have read to you, enable any inspectors or sub-inspectors to go into the office of a master bleacher, and examine his books?—I conceive that if he chose he might do so under the powers of the Bills which are to be applied to these works; he might state that he wanted the books to ascertain the hours of work.

7092. Might not the inspectors inquire about the wages and look to the ledger to see what was paid?—Yes.

7093. Mr. *Crook.*] Are you a mill owner?—I am not.

7094. Have you ever been in a mill?—I have frequently.

7095. In a cotton mill?—I have been in a cotton mill in Ireland.

7096. Have you seen an inspector in a mill?—No, I have not.

7097. Did you ever hear of any examination by an inspector of a ledger, or of any books not having reference to the employment of children?—I have not heard

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of such a thing, but I have read factory cases frequently in the Belfast papers in which the inspectors have brought charges against the proprietors of mills; but I have not seen anything with regard to books.

7098. Have you seen any instances in which they seem to have brought charges that were not justified by the facts?—I do not recollect any.

7099. Did you see much dust in the cotton mill that you were in?—Yes, a great deal.

7100. Was that in the spinning rooms?—In the spinning rooms; but not so much as in the flax rooms, in the preparing department.

7101. Would there be a great deal of flue?—Yes, a great deal of flue.

7102. Did you see it in the air at all?—Yes, I have seen it in the air, and I have seen it stick on to the windows, and so forth.

7103. Could you tell the Committee what clause in these proposed Bills compels parties to begin work at six o'clock?—My impression is, that the clause does not compel a person to begin work at six o'clock; but that they are not to begin work sooner than six or to go on later than six.

7104. Are you in the habit of receiving orders from the country or from abroad for linen goods?—No; I am not in the trade myself, but I am pretty conversant with it from my connexion with it.

7105. The bleachers do not bleach for you as a merchant?—No.

7106. Have you, therefore, any practical knowledge of any ground of complaint by the merchants of this Bill?—I have heard it so much discussed of late, that I have reason to believe that there would be a strong ground of complaint against it. I conceive that the knowledge that I have gained from conversation is quite sufficient to enable me to form an opinion.

7107. Have you read the evidence in Mr. Tremenheere's report?—I have.

7108. Have you read the evidence of the master bleachers in Ireland?—I have read it.

7109. Would you consider Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dobson and Co., qualified to give an opinion upon that subject?—I believe he is principally a cotton bleacher, at least to a great extent, and, therefore, I do not think that his opinion is to be taken upon linen bleaching.

7110. Are you aware that his evidence upon that point is this: "We bleach and finish linen and muslin, worked and plain"?—I believe that to be quite correct, but I fancy that the quantity of linen bleached in that concern was very small at that period.

7111. Did you notice his evidence with reference to the effect of the limitation of the hours of labour of women and children?—I remember the effect of it, but I do not remember the different answers that he gave.

7112. Would you think his opinion worthy of attention?—I believe that Mr. Bragg is perfectly entitled to credence; but at the same time, I know the chief part of his concern to be occupied with bleaching muslins, the cotton fabric which is chiefly used about Belfast.

7113. He says, "It occasionally also happens about once in two or three months that all the females are required to work till about nine o'clock; we do not wish it, but we do so to oblige our customers; from six to seven is as long as we like to have them employed; as we give them two hours for meals and rest; if an Act were to pass, limiting the hours to between six a. m., and six p. m., with an hour and a half for meals, it would not make any material difference to us." Do you think that he is a man whose opinion is entitled to respect?—I do; but I should greatly prefer the opinion of one more occupied in linen bleaching.

7114. Could you give the Committee any idea of the cost of bleaching a piece of linen?—I have the figures somewhere, but I do not know that I have them here.

7115. Are you prepared to give the Committee the relative cost of the process of bleaching as it is carried on in the bleach works in Ireland, and as it is carried on in Belgium?—I could do it, but not upon the spot at the present moment.

7116. Are you aware that there is an import duty upon linen going into Belgium?—Yes, but I spoke of the danger accruing from Belgian competition to us in neutral markets in South America, and in Italy.

7117. Are you prepared to give the Committee the grounds of your apprehension with regard to the competition of Belgium in neutral markets?—It is because, as I have already stated, weaving and bleaching are carried on rather more cheaply in

in France, Belgium, and Germany than they are in Ireland; and I have already given my opinion that the tendency of this Bill would be to the detriment of the Irish bleachers in the case of an order requiring shipment, in consequence of their not being able in the first place to execute these orders in a given time; and secondly of the tendency I conceive there would be to increase the cost of turning out the linen; I think that this would be quite sufficient to turn the scale in favour of the Belgians and Germans, and to enable them to drive us completely out of the market; I think that, added to other things, the effect of that would be material.

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7118. Can you tell the Committee what amount of labour could be done relatively in Belgium and in Prussia?—No, I cannot tell you the relative amount of it. I can tell you that wages are cheaper, and I know the prices charged for bleaching. I have the data, but I have not them upon the spot.

7119. Are you prepared to give the Committee any data by which they can judge of the danger of foreign competition?—I am not prepared to give them any except what I have already given, as regards the danger of restricting the hours of labour.

Mr. *John Pender*, was called in; and Examined.

7120. Mr. *Turner*.] ARE you a Commission Agent and Merchant in the city of Manchester?—Yes.

Mr. *J. Pender*.

7121. Will you explain to the Committee the nature of your business and the mode in which it is carried on?—Our business is principally buying for export merchants in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and also buying calicoes in Manchester for supplying the calico printers and the dyers of Glasgow. We receive orders from London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, as I have before remarked, to buy goods for India and China and other markets.

7122. I believe that your business of that description is very extended?—Yes, I believe about as large as any in Manchester.

7123. So that you have had personally as great experience in the foreign export business in Manchester as any other party in England?—Yes; and my China business particularly is a very important portion of our business.

7124. Therefore you employ a considerable number of people?—Yes; we employ a good many for preparing and packing goods for shipment.

7125. Have you any other description of labour besides packing in operation in your establishment?—We have, making up; also the calendering and finishing of prints, and making up such goods for packing.

7126. Do those operations employ an additional number of hands?—Those operations employ an additional number. We have altogether in the establishment, including the boys, makers up, packers, warehousemen, and clerks, about 120 people.

7127. Can you give the Committee any information as to the age of the people whom you employ?—From 13 to 50 years of age. About 50 are from 13 to 18 years.

7128. What are the number of hours of work to which they are subject?—I find that the average hours are about 10 hours a day.

7129. Is not the employment at times irregular?—It is a little sometimes. We have a push of business, and they are employed longer, at other times less; but as an inducement to our packers, and the boys as well, to get through their work, we pay them day's wages. The packers we pay a certain amount of day's wages. We estimate what work should be done answering to a day's wage, and we give them over and above a certain consideration for every bale they pack, and we find that that induces the men to finish the day's work in a shorter time. My object has always been, in Manchester, as far as possible, to reduce the hours, and to give the men some inducement to shorten the hours for themselves.

7130. What kind of rooms do those boys and young persons work in?—Large airy rooms.

7131. How is the state of education among them; are they inferior upon the whole to the other classes of workpeople?—All the clerks and the warehousemen, of course, are men of moderate education. The packers, of course, are fitted

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for their own particular department; the boys are not so well educated. There are very few of the boys write; mostly all can read.

7132. It has been suggested to the Committee that the description of labour which you have now alluded to should be placed under legislative restriction, as in the case of bleach works; what is your opinion as to that?—My impression is that if you legislate for such establishments as ours, you will fetter trade to a very great extent; you tie our hands behind our backs; because it is often a question with the merchant whether he will export goods or send bullion abroad; and if there is a great deal of delay in getting up his orders, or if the value of the production is enhanced by restriction, which must necessarily be, I think it will tell very much against the Manchester trade.

7133. Then it is your opinion that the merchants and the manufacturers should in all respects be left as free as possible?—Certainly; I think that by every restriction you put upon the trade of this country, you give a premium to foreign competitors.

7134. Is not it the fact that practically you have no control over the orders of the merchant; that they come pressing upon you at times when you are compelled to complete them in the shortest possible time?—We have no control; we are instructed to prepare certain goods for a certain ship; if the assortment can be made in the time, of course the order is completed. If we cannot get the dyed and bleached portion ready in time, they are left.

7135. Are you aware whether the position in which you are placed with regard to the merchant is the position that the bleacher is in as regards yourselves?—I look upon the bleachers as being much in the same position as ourselves; we are the servants of the merchant, and the bleachers I look upon as our servants. Therefore if we lose the order they must lose it.

7136. Do you think it possible to regulate the supply of the foreign markets by any fixed rule?—I do not think it is at all possible; nor do I think it is wise, because if we do not supply the orders, the supply will go from other countries. And, speaking more immediately in connexion with bleaching, my own impression, and indeed my own experience is, that for China and India the demand for bleached goods is rather falling off than increasing, in proportion to the quantity of greys. I impute that, in some measure, to the much lower wages current in those countries; they can bleach their goods cheaper than we can do it in this country, and therefore any impediment or any restriction put upon bleaching is only putting us to a greater disadvantage with our foreign competitors.

7137. Will not that refer more especially to continental countries than to more distant markets?—I think it refers quite as much to the more distant markets; they have water and sunshine which they can use for bleaching; and, as I said, they have 2*d.* a day or only 1½*d.* a day wages; so that it requires all our ingenuity to compete with them.

7138. Practically, do you find that the orders you receive are decreasing?—I think so, for bleached goods; I consider there is a dulness in this business.

7139-40. Are you of opinion that if any measure were adopted in this country by the Legislature, which might add to the difficulties of the bleacher as well as to the cost of bleaching, it would, to any extent, be injurious to the interests of the people?—Clearly so. I think, in the first place, that it would tell very much against the employers; and, in the second place, I think it must tell against the employed; because I am perfectly satisfied that if you enhance the cost of bleaching, you will lessen the demand for bleaching; and then, if you increase the bleach works to the extent to meet any temporary demands, you take up a greater amount of capital, and consequently you must enhance the cost of bleaching; and as I said before, giving a premium to the foreign competitors.

7141. It has been stated to the Committee that the necessity for this pressure upon the bleacher is, in some degree, mitigated now by the increased facilities afforded by more vessels sailing to those distant markets than there used to be. What is your opinion upon that?—I think it does not tell exactly in our India and China business, because it is done upon a large scale. When you go into the operation, it is not exactly with a view to the profits to be realised in the foreign market upon any particular shipment, but upon taking it as a whole. As regards the supply, therefore, it would not do to divide the shipment, which has a value, merely when taken in the lump. They put 5, 10, 15, or 20, or even as much as 70,000*l.* to one shipment, with a view to a particular operation; and they would not think of putting

putting smaller lots into each ship, which they must do if you put such restrictions upon bleaching as will not enable a quantity to be brought forward in a certain time.

7142. Are not some of the foreign markets season markets?—Yes, Bombay particularly.

7143. Are not you compelled, as regards those markets more especially, to forward the goods at the earliest opportunity?—China is, to an extent, the same, because the object is to get out the goods for them to get the new tea and silks.

7144. Of course, in your desire to forward the goods by the earliest vessel, a pressure is frequently put upon the bleacher?—Frequently.

7145. When Mr. Tremenheere was in the country, I think you saw him?—Yes.

7146. And he has made a short note of a conversation which took place between you?—I have read that report, but he must have misunderstood me. He has not stated it according to the impression upon my mind of what I stated to him; and also, I observe that he has mentioned that I confirmed his printed statement; I never saw it in writing; if he called upon me I never saw him; I believe he saw Mr. Cowan, but Mr. Cowan never mentioned to me that he had called. However, Mr. Cowan, my partner, attended more to the counting-house department, and it is quite possible that it may have been read to him, and he might have made no remark; but if that statement had been read to me, I should have corrected the impression, and if I had made a wrong impression, I should have asked him to alter the statement.

7147. The impression conveyed by the evidence of Mr. Tremenheere is, that "foreign competition is not a very important matter; in this case the legislation would not add much to the difficulties, either of the bleacher or the merchants, with regard to any additional cost put upon them." Is that your impression?—I could have no such impression, because I have always given my opinion strongly that we have had a great deal too much legislation, and we find that this legislation is often taken up with a view of applying it to manufacturers by people who do not thoroughly understand it. It appears to me that it is fettering a trade that they ought rather to encourage; in any statement that I may have made to the contrary, I must have expressed myself badly.

7148. So that whatever may be the tendency of Mr. Tremenheere's evidence as reported with regard to yourself, you did not mean to convey the impression that you were favourable to legislation?—Certainly not. I recollect he put the question to me, "Do you approve of children and females working so long as 16 hours a day?" I said, "Certainly not; and I do not think that any master bleacher approves of it either." He said then, "Would you legislate to prevent it?" and I said, "No, I would not, because I think it is quite an exceptional case, and that you might create a greater evil to destroy a lesser evil." I think, so far as I remember, that was the purport of what I said. I do not approve at all of inspectors going about the works or warehouses, and that the tendency was to set the employed against the employers, and to create the belief that they had different interests.

7149. Mr. Tremenheere says that you considered that when the trade got accommodated to the new system (of course he refers to legislation), these difficulties would diminish, and that the greater regularity in the arrangements of the bleachers would enable them to conduct their business with very little additional cost; is that the impression which you wish to convey to him?—No, certainly not. I stated very positively to him that I considered that the bleacher would then require an additional price, or you would be giving, as I have before stated, a premium to the foreign competitor.

7150. Are you of the same opinion as the former witness, who stated that he would rather see a limitation of the hours of work brought about by a general arrangement, such as took place in Manchester in the years 1845 and 1846?—My impression certainly is that it would be more satisfactory. I think the tendency with all employers now is to reduce the hours of labour as much as they possibly can. I know that in my own house in Manchester it has been my great study; and I have endeavoured in every possible way to make my arrangements such as would enable the work to be done within ordinary hours. I do not approve of long hours, if they can be avoided; but I think to legislate to restrict them is a power which ought not to be given.

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7151. Has not the Saturday half-holiday, which has been established for the last three years in Manchester, been entirely a voluntary arrangement?—Yes.

7152. Has it not been very willingly concurred in by both parties?—Yes.

7153. Should you have any difficulty in applying the same principle to the hours in bleach works?—I think not. I do not see any great difficulty. I believe it is the ambition of every bleacher to get orders out of hand as quickly as possible. I do not think that he has any object in working his people an hour longer than is absolutely necessary, and the tendency has been among the bleachers during the last ten years to accommodate themselves to any extended trade that might come. By doing so they have materially lessened the hours of the work-people.

7154. Is it your opinion that it is not desirable for the Legislature to interfere in this kind of labour?—I think not at the present time, when competition is becoming so strong abroad. We should have no restrictive legislation, as it is only tying the manufacturer's hands behind his back, and prevents him giving full effect to the free trade measures so happily established in this country.

7155. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that, in your opinion, the hours of labour in bleach works might be successfully reduced by an arrangement between the employers and the employed?—No.

7156. Will you explain what you mean by an answer which you gave to the Honourable Member for South Lancashire, as to such an arrangement being made to prevent the Legislature interfering?—The explanation that I would give is, that the bleach works are getting into this position. For any particular finish they generally make arrangements, by extending the machinery, so as to get a greater return of work for the same amount of labour. It is to some extent an arrangement which would be obtained by superior mechanical facilities.

5157. What is the meaning you attach to the answers you gave to the questions to the Honourable Member for South Lancashire as to the possibility of settling the questions in dispute in the bleaching trade as to the half-holiday that you state was settled in Manchester by arrangements that were voluntary on the part of the employed and the employers: do you mean that an arrangement should be entered into for a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach works?—I believe that it is possible that the bleachers might make certain arrangements, but those arrangements would be liable to be put aside when extreme pushes came upon them; for instance, orders very often come in, causing largely increased demand, and that demand may be only temporary, extending over a fortnight or a month, and the next month they may be comparatively very quiet and still. They might have a system arranged pretty much upon the same principle that we have the half-holiday upon Saturday. There would be a certain rule, but the rule would be open to being put aside at times when a pressure came upon them, as it is in warehouses now.

7158. I understand that you are a commission merchant, and therefore may be called of late almost an employer of the master bleachers?—Quite so.

7159. Do the pushes that they are subject to come, in point of fact, from you?—From us, or rather from the merchants through us.

7160. Can you tell the Committee what facilities you would be disposed to give to the master bleachers for carrying out these amicable arrangements between themselves and their employers?—If we had an order for 20,000 pieces, and the vessel is chartered to sail on a certain day, we say to the bleacher, "Can you make arrangements for the quantity of goods to be bleached by a certain time; if you cannot do them by a certain time, I am obliged to substitute the grey goods for them." The order is put aside altogether, and the answer, he is engaged at the moment and he cannot execute the order. And if they cannot execute the order the order is lost, and the benefit accruing from that order is lost to the district; not only lost to the employer, but lost to the employed as well.

7161. Then are the Committee to understand that you do not see your way towards giving any facilities to the master bleachers for entering into an arrangement with the people they employ?—It is rather a difficult matter for me to lay down any rules whereby the bleacher ought to manage his works; my own impression is that a bleacher, or any man having a large amount of machinery which is worked at a considerable expense, will not keep that machinery working a minute longer than he believes is necessary. He will not make it necessary to keep

keep people about the works beyond the fixed hours; I am not quite aware of all the detail of the management of bleach works, I merely speak of the condition that I am in as an employer of the bleacher. I merely come to the point that if they cannot execute the orders that I give them within the time, that is so much loss to the trade; that is what I want the Committee to understand.

7162. Is the Committee to understand that you are of opinion that an arrangement should be entered into between the master bleachers and their work-people, but that that arrangement must always be liable to be set aside when the commission merchant gives an order to be executed?—Yes; I do not see any difficulty in it.

7163. Would not the arrangement which you would propose in lieu of legislative interference always be at the mercy of the employer of the master bleachers?—Yes; I make the reservation that I do not think that it is for the interest of the master bleacher to work the machinery for longer hours than is necessary.

7164. But you as a commission merchant would not be able to judge of the necessity?—It is my object to execute every order that I receive if I can execute it in the time; if I cannot execute it then I say that the order is lost. That is just playing into the hands of our competitors.

7165. Did I rightly understand you to say that Mr. Tremenheere did not bring his version of the communication that had taken place between you for your sanction?—No; I never saw Mr. Tremenheere in my place but once; he brought an introduction to me from a bleacher; I went over the establishment with him, and I answered the different questions that he put to me, and gave him some little information, that upon the whole there appeared to me great objection to legislative interference.

7166. Did you say that Mr. Cowan was your partner?—Yes, at that time.

7167. Did I rightly understand you to say that you asked Mr. Tremenheere to call at your office again?—No, I was not aware that he had called until I read a statement in his evidence that he had called; I was not aware of it until to-day.

7168. Have you had no communication with Mr. Cowan upon the subject?—Mr. Cowan never mentioned it to me.

7169. Did not it strike you that his report ought to have been communicated to you, and did you never communicate with your partner upon the subject?—When that document was sent to me, giving an account of the evidence I had given, I stated then that it was not the evidence which I had given; I stated that to some party who called upon me, Mr. Blair, I think.

7170. With respect to Mr. Cowan, must the Committee still remain in ignorance as to what he stated to Mr. Tremenheere?—Mr. Cowan's department in the business is to attend almost entirely to money matters. If Mr. Tremenheere called upon Mr. Cowan, and stated that I had made this statement to him, Mr. Cowan would take it for granted that I had made the statement to Mr. Tremenheere (the party calling) and would confirm it, presuming that what Mr. Tremenheere had said was correct. But I was not made aware by Mr. Cowan that he had called.

7171. Is the Committee to understand that you believe the bleaching business is now carried on in India and China?—I believe that we send a great quantity of our calicoes to those countries in the gray state; and they wash them themselves; they have water and sun to bleach them. They do buy bleached goods to a certain extent, but if you enhance the value of bleaching you add to the cost of an article of which the consumer is only earning a penny halfpenny or two pence a day; it tells at once against the consumption of the article, and hence it tells upon the bleachers in Lancashire. My experience is that in India and China (I am only speaking of my own trade, which I have watched very closely) there is a very considerable decrease in the demand for bleached goods compared with what the demand was something like ten years ago in proportion to gray ods.

7172. Mr. *Butt.*] Unbleached goods are sent instead of bleached goods?—Yes.

7173. *Chairman.*] Are they bleached when they get out there?—They bleach them in the course of wearing, but we find that the natives do buy the white calicoes as well, they trim it up with different colours themselves.

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7174. Is the Committee to understand that there are bleach greens established in China and India?—I am not aware of any; I want to show that if you enhance the value of bleached cloth in this country, you diminish the consumption abroad, where labour is cheap; the people bleach themselves.

7175. Is the Committee to understand people of India and China have no objection to buy and use the goods in an unbleached state?—Yes, and they are not disposed to pay any increased expense.

7176. Mr. *Butt.*] And that any addition to the price of bleaching would have the effect of limiting it?—It would have the effect of limiting it.

7177. In fact, that is the case as between unbleached goods and bleached?—Yes.

7178. You stated that you have lost an order if you could not get the bleacher to execute it in time?—Yes.

7179. Has that frequently occurred?—Frequently. I can give you one instance in dyed goods: after we had had the goods from three or four months in the dyer's hands, there was just a particular push for those calicoes; and if the dyer had been more restricted in his power of producing it, it would have been even more the case. If we buy calicoes in the gray from the manufactory, and send them to the bleachers to bleach or dye, and if we lose the order, of course the manufacturer to some extent is a sufferer as well as the bleacher.

7180. In point of fact, are orders frequently lost, because you cannot get them bleached in time?—Frequently.

7181. Mr. *Turner.*] Is it not necessary for carrying on large transactions in such a place as Manchester that every facility should be given that possibly can be for getting a large amount of goods finished to ship them expeditiously for certain vessels?—Clearly so. I think it is very important that every facility should be given. The tendency of the trade is very much for the merchants to put a large quantity in one ship. The trade, after all, being to a great extent, particularly with China, a barter trade. If there is an order to have 20,000 *l.* or 50,000 *l.* worth of silk or tea, they may want to put 25,000 *l.* worth of goods and 25,000 *l.* worth of bullion; but they could not send the 25,000 *l.* worth of goods during a period extending over six months. They want them all at once.

7182. Mr. Barbour has mentioned to us that it would not be very inconvenient if the orders fail to be ready for certain vessels, inasmuch as in the course of a fortnight or two other vessels would be going to certain ports of the Continent, and the orders could be so sent to them; and it has been found in most instances in such transactions that the giver of the orders who originated the transaction is the part owner or the charterer of the vessel, and must have all the goods ready to be shipped in his own vessel?—It is frequently the case; and therefore, if a quantity of goods, say 50,000 *l.* of property, have to be shipped to China or the East Indies, and the charterparty of the goods should not be completed in the proper proportion as they would wish it, would they have to take a part of the goods in case you were not to complete the whole?—That is generally the case.

7183. Therefore they have bleaching gardens in India and China; or, as you say, that they bleached the goods in the course of wearing, does not it equally affect the interest of the bleacher here if the bleaching of part of the cargo is remitted?—Clearly so.

7184. It is of no consequence whether the operation of bleaching is carried on as a trade, or merely in the manner which you have described?—It makes no difference, the money is lost to the bleacher.

7185. Therefore, if additional incumbrances were placed upon the bleacher going on at that rate in this country, and he was able still less than he is now to get his work done in time, must not he and his workpeople necessarily suffer to a larger extent than they do now?—Clearly so; my own impression, from what I know of the fluctuations of bleaching and dyeing is, that if the bleachers and dyers of Lancashire were to double their establishments to-day, so as to meet these pushes, I do not think that they would do a greater amount of business than they are doing at the present moment; and the consequence of that would be, that the operatives would have half wages instead of the full wages that they have now; I think that it would tell against the operatives quite as much as the employer.

7186. Many

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7186. Many of the complaints which have been made as regards the overworking in bleach works, have applied not so much to the bleaching operations as to the finishing operations, and the bleachers would be subjected to these restrictions in their finishing operations because they are bleachers; are there not a number of establishments in Manchester where, without being bleachers, the owners of those establishments are finishers?—Yes.

7187. Therefore the evils would apply to those establishments as much as they would to bleaching establishments?—Quite as much. In my own establishment I have never heard of complaints from the people being overworked in any way; all the calico presses are worked by steam machinery. The work now, as compared with 10 years ago, in the Manchester shipping warehouses, is comparatively easy; the workpeople have their wages steadily, and if they are sick there is nothing kept off them, and if there is any holiday they do not pay; on the other hand, they always work cheerfully if there is any pressure of work. But there is this consideration over and above their ordinary day's wages, they get a certain consideration for the piece-work which renders them perfectly content.

7188. In order to do justice to the bleacher, if he is subject to this legislation in his finishing department, would not it be necessary to extend the Legislative interference to such establishments as yours where you make up, calender, and finish just as the bleachers do?—Of course I completely object to the thing altogether; I think, to extend to such businesses as ours, would be a most improper interference; I think that interference would be completely telling me how I ought to use my capital, and how I am to use my intelligence in working my business. It would be a system, I believe, that would drive many men out of the business altogether. For my own part, if I were to be subject to persons coming in and superintending all my operations,—probably they have no real knowledge of it,—I think I should shut up warehouse altogether.

7189. Would not it be necessary to put you under the same regulations in order to do justice to the bleachers?—I think, as we are both packers and makers-up, if you subject the bleachers to it, in fairness you must subject us also; at the same time I entirely disapprove of it.

7190. Then I go on and ask you whether it would not be almost ruinous to the successful carrying on of business in Manchester, if the large warehouses were put under the jurisdiction of inspectors?—I think it would be the beginning of the end of the Manchester trade.

7191. Then is it not, such being the case, very unjust to put the calendering and making-up establishments of the bleachers under a restriction, when they have to compete with you?—I think so, for two reasons; in the first place, I think, it would be unjust to single them out; and again it is interfering with the merchant's operations, the tendency of which is to drive him to adopt other modes of laying down his funds abroad, so that the trade of the country suffers.

7192. Are you aware that the export of silver to the East has been a great financial difficulty with this country for some time?—Clearly.

7193. Do not manufactured goods, to a very large extent, compete with silver, as a remittance to the East, China, and the East Indies, as well as being articles of export from this country?—It is a calculation with the merchant which would be the most profitable, calico or silver, for laying down his funds in India or China. At the present moment silver is safer, accounting to a certain extent for the large export of silver. As we are now contending against high-priced cotton, any restriction put upon manufacturers still further enhances the value of the manufactured article, and throws the balance still further in favour of silver.

7194. Will not increased prices of bleaching, and increased impediments put in the way of bleaching operations, be in a degree as efficacious in that direction as any interference with cotton?—It tells exactly in the same way. It does not matter whether it is cotton that is the cause, or whether it arises from other causes; if the value of the goods is enhanced, it comes to the same thing.

7195. Does the export of bullion from this country tend to create a dearness of money in this country?—Clearly.

7196. Therefore it is not the bullion here?—Clearly.

7197. If bullion is exported, and displaces the export of calicoes, does not the export of bullion also throw impediments in the way, by creating a dearness of money in the operations of trade?—Quite so.

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7198. And everything tending to impede the progress of British manufacture increases the evil?—There is no doubt about it.

7199. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Mr. Tremenheere has been examined before this Committee, and I find, in answer to a question that was put to him, he makes this reply; "I remember that with regard to Mr. Pender's evidence, I went twice to that gentleman's warehouse; the second time for the purpose of submitting to Mr. Pender the evidence that he had previously given me; he was absent, and I read it over to Mr. Cowan; and in the last paragraph of that evidence, I said, 'Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan, consider,' and I gave it as the evidence of Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan," and so on; does not that reply of Mr. Tremenheere corroborate the statement you have given to the Committee this morning?—Quite so; I was not aware that Mr. Tremenheere had called to read the statement to me until I read in his evidence, that he had done so.

7200. Mr. *Crook.*] You were asked with reference to regulating orders. Have you heard of any proposal to attempt to regulate orders?—I have not heard of any proposal of that kind. I do not think that it is a thing that comes at all within the province either of the bleacher or of the commission agent, or of the merchant in this country. He is instructed by his house abroad what assortment of goods they want; that assortment may contain 20,000 or 30,000 pieces of bleached goods, or it may only contain 5,000, and he is bound to carry out the instructions of the foreign house; and, therefore, if a house in London receives an order, they are bound to carry it out strictly according to the instructions received from abroad, or to omit the order. We are simply agents in carrying it out.

7201. Are you aware of any proposal to attempt to regulate orders?—I am not aware of any; I think it would be rather a difficult thing to make a Chinaman or a Hindoo wear calicoes by Act of Parliament, and to tell him the class of calico he should wear.

7202. Did you lend your sanction to the half-holiday regulations in Manchester?—Yes, I did; I always hailed with great pleasure a holiday when it comes, just as much as any of my workpeople.

7203. Have you found any inconvenience as a bleacher from stopping at one o'clock on Saturday? Have you lost any orders in consequence, or have you had any complaints in consequence of that arrangement?—I am not aware of having lost any; certainly not; we have increased facilities during the week, and on Saturday I am not bound by Act of Parliament not to send any goods forward; I can violate the understanding if I choose, but it is an understanding that we have found to work so well that we are uncommonly anxious not to interfere with it. I have myself exceeded the hours on Saturday; I have had my warehouse open perhaps during the last 10 years two or three times, perhaps half-a-dozen times, but that has arisen very much in this way; we have a vessel in London with nine-tenths of her cargo on board, and we receive at the last moment two or three thousand pieces of goods which we require to pack and despatch perhaps on the Saturday afternoon, so as not to keep the vessel on demurrage, or detain her unduly; but it is a thing that does not occur frequently, we all endeavour to maintain the half-holiday as intact as possible.

7304. You say the tendency generally is to reduce the hours of labour?—That is my own impression.

7205. Are you favourable to a reduction of the hours of labour where they exceed 10 ½ a day?—Of course I am in favour of it if we could so arrange it as to compete with other countries. If we could work six hours a day and still beat our foreign competitors, I have no objection to it at all; I do not think there is any object in working long hours unnecessarily. At the same time we must bear in mind that if we are to keep the trade of this country we must take into consideration the competition that we have to meet with, and we must regulate our hours accordingly.

7206. Have you any reason to apprehend an injurious effect from competition, judging by the Factory Act?—I do not think that the Factory Act applies at all to the case that is now under consideration. In the Factory Act the machinery is in constant motion from morning till night, and the producer, that is, the spinner or manufacturer, if he has no orders at one time, can stock his goods if he thinks proper. The bleacher is in a different position, he has to work when he gets orders to do; he cannot stock bleached goods for any particular market; we find

find the markets continually changing; we find that they want one finish to-day and a different finish to-morrow; therefore, of course, no bleacher will keep a large stock of bleached goods. Besides I do not think it is desirable, if such a trade were to exist, and the merchant were to hold a stock of bleached goods, still he must have a profit in some cases; it costs money to hold them, and that adds to their value, and therefore places those goods at a disadvantage in foreign competition.

7207. Supposing that the hours of labour in bleach-works should be regulated by mutual arrangement, and should be limited, so that the employment of women and children should not exceed 10½ hours a day, do you think that would be injurious to trade?—I think so. If you make such restrictions as will enhance the value of the bleaching, as I before stated, I think that you are giving a premium to foreign competitors.

7208. May I understand you to decline to give an opinion as to the desirability of restricting the hours of labour, provided the arrangement is made voluntarily?—Were I a practical bleacher, I would answer more to your satisfaction. I do not think that I am entitled to draw any inference at all any further than this; that if you in any way restrict the labour, or take away a portion of cheap labour, you enhance the value of the article produced; and therefore it tells in competition with other countries. You enhance the value of the production, and you give a premium to foreign competitors.

7209. Are you aware that, under the factory system, the hours of labour have been regulated, and that the manufacture has been extended notwithstanding; are you aware that there is more work done in 10½ hours than there used to be in 12 hours?—I have been told so.

7210. Do not you think that in bleach-works the same results might possibly follow?—I am not sufficiently practical to answer that question. I should say, from the little I have observed, that it is a different system altogether. There is a great deal of manual labour connected with the machinery, the carrying from one machine to another, that I do not think it is possible to increase it. You may increase mechanical speed; but I do not think it is possible to increase the speed of the manual labour connected with it to the same degree.

7211. You have favoured the Committee with the opinion that we have had a great deal too much legislation; had that been in reference to the employment of women and children?—Yes, and to the interference with capital generally.

7212. Can you give the Committee any instance in which legislation has had that effect?—I am not quite prepared to go into the different cases; but I have had occasion before now to be questioned a good deal about legislation as applying to the commerce of the country and to the manufactures of the country, and the impression has always been upon my mind that the tendency of it is to fetter trade.

7213. Has that impression followed any particular event?—I am not quite prepared to go into the subject.

7214. Have you any recollection of any complaints from capitalists who are affected by legislation?—I have had complaints from shipowners frequently.

7215. Have there been any complaints made, or has there been any evidence given to Parliament, of the injurious effect of legislation as regards labour?—I am perfectly aware that there is a great deal existing, but I am not quite prepared to give any specific case at this moment.

7216. You stated to the Committee that goods were sometimes three or four months in the hands of the dyers?—Yes.

7217. Have you had any experience of that sort?—Yes.

7218. Were those orders lost?—They were lost to a very great extent; they were lost so far as the object that was in view at the moment; and we have had to hold the bleachers and the dyers, in several instances, responsible for it, so far as their interest was concerned. But I could give you one instance. At the time that the Chinese rebellion broke out first, we had orders in the hands of the dyers; in that we were about three months behind time; and I remember that those goods had to be held over in Manchester for two years at a very serious loss.

7219. Had that loss reference to the goods being kept in the hands of the dyer three or four months?—Of course it had reference to the goods not being

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delivered at a particular time; they were thrown upon my hands, and, although I was not bound to do so, I interposed, acting as an agent; I thought that it was a great hardship to the merchant, he having given me the order, and I having committed the order to the hands of parties, who, I believed, would send them back in time. The merchant would not receive the goods, and I took them, therefore, myself; not that I was bound to do so, still I did it because I thought that it would be unjust upon the merchant to force the goods upon him. As far as the merchant was concerned, the order was lost; the dyers certainly got their order, but I was a loser by it.

7220. You say that if the bleacher cannot finish the goods in the time that you fix, it is a loss to the trade; what guide have you in fixing the time for the bleacher to bleach a certain amount of goods?—I generally allow 10 days; as far as possible from seven to ten days.

7221. Can they bleach them in seven days?—Yes, I believe so.

7222. You say that, as a rule, you make an allowance to the extent of 10 days?—We generally consider from seven to ten days a fair time to allow them.

7223. Would it make as much as the difference between seven and ten days, if they were debarred from employing women and children beyond six o'clock at night?—It depends a great deal upon the circumstances under which we are placed at the time, although I should say from seven to ten days; it is quite possible that an immediate order might arrive from India, and that we should have just seven days, or perhaps less than that, and the instructions might be to add a certain amount to this order, 5,000 or 10,000 pieces of bleached goods, if those goods could be done in time to go along with the other order, and therefore this is what I would call a push; if we cannot have those goods finished in the time, of course the order is not executed.

7224. Can you give the Committee any data by which they may judge of foreign competition in bleaching?—I only speak from my own experience; I have before stated, that I find that our export of goods in our own particular business to India and China is less than it used to be.

7225. You have stated to the Committee, that they can bleach cheaper abroad than at home; will you give any reason why they can bleach cheaper?—I think if a man is earning 1½*d.* a day, he can do it at a smaller rate.

7226. Is that the best evidence that you can give the Committee of the nature of foreign competition?—I am speaking with regard now to the shipments made to India and China. The trade in which I am more particularly engaged, the demand for bleached, goods is rather going backward than otherwise, and I impute it to the Hindoo and the Chinaman beginning to use the calico gray, and washing it as he uses it.

7227. Can you inform the Committee, that they can bleach cheaper abroad; was that both in the near or distant markets?—I state now what I stated before, I think in almost the same words; I stated that the Hindoo or Chinaman can bleach cheaper that we can in this country.

7228. Do you know the cost of bleaching in the English bleaching-works?—I have a pretty good idea; I know what I pay for it, and I know that, looking to the sum that I pay, there cannot be a great margin of profit.

7229. Do I rightly understand you to say, that you do not know the cost of bleaching in England?—No, I do not know the nett cost.

7230. Do you know the cost of bleaching abroad, either in near or distant markets?—I think I have stated to you the nature of bleaching abroad.

7231. Is the Committee to understand, that you are not acquainted with the cost of bleaching in either near or distant foreign markets?—I should say, if you want a direct answer to that, the only answer that I could give to it is, that the cost of bleaching abroad is nothing, and the cost of bleaching in England of course is something; I cannot go into the figures.

7232. You say that if a Bill is carried which prohibits women and young persons from being employed beyond six o'clock at night, that it would be telling you how to use your capital; do you consider that the moral obligation, not to work beyond six o'clock on Saturday, is telling you how to use your capital?—As I said before, we are not bound down; we do it from a desire to give more recreation to our working people, but we are not bound to do it; and I feel that, given in the way that we give it, we create a much better feeling on the part of the employed, than giving it by constraint; I consider it much more tending to create

create a good feeling between the employers and the employed than by doing it by Act of Parliament.

7233. Do you consider the moral effect of it beneficial to those employed?—That is very much a matter of opinion; my own opinion is, that if it is properly used, it is a very great benefit; but I have been told, and told by men whose judgment I respect, that, at all events for a considerable time, the tendency was not that way, that the half-holiday was abused instead of tending to their moral advancement.

7234. Will you give your own opinion as to its effect?—My own impression is, that, in my own establishment, the tendency is to the improvement of the people.

7235. Do you think that your establishment differs in that respect from the majority of establishments in Manchester where young people are employed?—I think to some extent it does. Every man has his own particular hobby in working his business; my great object in working my business is to give the workpeople as great facilities as possible, and to attach them to me by liberal treatment; that is the course that I pursue, and I believe that it is the interest of employers generally to pursue the same course, and I believe it is generally pursued in Manchester.

7236. Do you think that in the majority of cases in Manchester the arrangement of a Saturday half-holiday has been beneficial to the people?—I am disposed to think it is; but, as I have stated before, there are other men who hold a different opinion, therefore I merely give my own opinion.

7237. In the evidence stated by Mr. Tremenheere to have been given by your house, it is said that the hours of labour in the bleach-works are, "at times, much too long;" do you still think that is correct?—Mr. Tremenheere must have misunderstood me; the question he put to me, as far as my memory serves me, was, whether I approved of females and children working 16 hours a day consecutively, and I said, "certainly not."

7238. Have you read the evidence given by young girls and boys to Mr. Tremenheere of the hours of labour?—I have glanced at it.

7239. You are aware that there are such statements as these: "I have been at this work three or four years, and I have been generally from seven to 10, sometimes 11, including two hours for meals." Do you think that working from seven till 10, and sometimes till 11, for three or for years together, are not unnecessarily long hours?—I think that for children to work for four years consecutively from six till ten is very long.

7240. Do you think it right for a girl to be worked from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 at night?—No, I do not think it is right.

7241. Then, if that is true, do you think it is too long?—Yes; but at the same time, my own impression is that those are exceptions to the rule, and that those exceptions might be removed without putting the works under Government supervision; I think they might be removed without an Act of Parliament, in a much more simple manner; I think there is no bleacher that would not at once declare that it was not either his interest or his wish to work, in general, such a number of hours.

7242. Do you think it desirable that those exceptions should be remedied?—Yes, I think it is desirable that they should be remedied; but I have before stated that I think they are so exceptional, that they can be remedied perfectly well without an Act of Parliament.

7243. Are not you aware that according to this report there are hundreds of people at times working those hours?—I am not aware that the rule is that those hours are worked; all the statements that I have seen have gone to prove that the average labour is very far short of that.

7244. Do you not think that if those cases are exceptional, that is a powerful reason why those exceptions should be done away with?—My view is, that, as I before stated, you may create a greater evil, and an evil that will tell more upon the operatives as a body than you seek to remove; that the cases that are exceptional you may remove without bringing in a greater amount of what we must call privation, because it would amount to that if you interfere with the working people, so as to reduce their wages and limit their employment; I think that you may save a girl or two, which I think could be done without

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an Act of Parliament, whereas the Act of Parliament would place the people in such a position that I think of necessity their wages would become reduced.

7245. Does it strike you that any injury would result to the merchants?—The injury would result to the merchants in the same way; we are all links in the chain; if the value of the commodity is enhanced, the merchant is the man who suffers in the first place; if he cannot get the article as cheap as other countries can provide it; and the manufacturer in the second, and the operatives in the third; so that we all form links in the same chain.

7246. Since your objection is to interference by law, what method would you recommend the Committee to adopt to remedy those exceptions?—I think you must leave it very much to the character of the employers. There is no doubt at all that it is the interest of the employers to have a contented class of workpeople and to have a healthy class of workpeople, and I should have very little respect for a man who, from purely selfish motives, would work his people in such a way that they would become useless to themselves and him at the same time.

7247. If you had a daughter 20 years of age working, for four or five years together, from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 o'clock at night, should you be contented with that arrangement?—The variety of occupations in Lancashire is so great, that if I found it to be a rule I should remove her to some other employment.

7248. Then, as far as that goes, you would not be content with that institution?—No; I have stated before that I do not approve of that system.

7249. Mr. *Kirk.*] Do not you think that if there is this pressure in bleaching-works, and there is lighter labour and shorter hours in other works, the people employed in the bleaching-works can go from them to some other employment?—Yes, I think there is no doubt about it; a man's labour is his capital, and he can take it to the work where he finds the best remuneration and the easiest work.

7250. With reference to the Manchester half-holiday; is not it your opinion that the Manchester half-holiday works better, because it is a spontaneous act of the employers, than it would have done had it been enforced by Act of Parliament?—I am not quite clear about that. I have no hesitation in saying that the reason why it has worked well is the way in which it is granted by the employers.

7251. Is not it accepted as a boon instead of being demanded as a right?—No doubt about it, and I think very properly appreciated by the working people.

7252. You have been asked a good many questions as to the social and moral improvement of the young men who have been mainly concerned in this half-holiday. Is it the fact that there is quite as much if not more practical immorality and practical social evil among the young men employed as there was before the half-holiday?—I regret to say that I think there is nothing that has thriven so much in Manchester for the last few years as haunts for young men to go to, dancing places and singing places, and things of that kind, that have sprung up like mushrooms in Manchester.

7253. Have you ever been in the lower parts of the city of Manchester on a Sunday evening from six o'clock to nine?—No, I have not, though I have been in Manchester a good many years.

James Burton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Burton, Esq.

7254. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee how many years you have been in business?—About 55 or 56 years.

7255. Have you recently retired?—Yes.

7256. The businesses with which you have been practically conversant are calico printing, cotton spinning and bleaching, and shipping goods as a merchant?—I first began the calico printing with the Messrs. Peel, Yates & Co.; after I left them, with Mr. Thompson, also a calico printer; and then I went into business myself.

7257. You have had therefore considerable experience in those several departments of business?—Yes.

7258. As a calico printer, you first became acquainted with the processes of bleaching and dyeing?—Yes.

7259. And I suppose your attention at that time was drawn to the working people

people employed in those operations?—At that time there was no Act of Parliament interfering with the print-works or bleaching.

7260. From your experience in that business, what do you consider the employment of workpeople in bleaching and dyeing; is it a healthy one?—From my own experience, I never saw a difficulty as to health or any general complaints, but they always looked healthy and well, very active in their business.

7261. What did you observe with reference to their education and condition, compared to other classes of labour?—At that time there was not much chance for education; we had Sunday schools founded, and night schools occasionally.

7262. Are you practically acquainted with the operation of the Factory Act, as regards spinning and weaving?—Yes.

7263. Do you think that an Act of Parliament, similar in its powers to that, could be applied as satisfactorily to bleach and dye works?—I think it would lead to considerable difficulty, as far as the orders for bleaching and finishing are concerned; of course, in a factory, the work is more certain and regular.

7264. Do you think that the irregularity in the bleaching works could be restrained by Act of Parliament with advantage to the workpeople on the one hand and the masters on the other?—No; I think it would act most decidedly against both the masters, and, in the long run, against the workpeople.

7265. In your experience as a shipper, how did you act in giving out your orders; have you expected the bleacher to complete them in the shortest possible time?—We always arrange with the bleachers; when we know the vessel which is to take the goods is fixed upon as to time, we then arrange with the bleacher that he must finish them in that time.

7266. Could the bleacher, therefore, divide the lots delivered to him generally, and send one for one ship and one for another?—No; we always make up assortments, and the bleacher has to carefully preserve that assortment, and to finish it according to the order, so as to be shipped at the time fixed on.

7267. In the desire of the bleacher to meet the orders of the merchant, he has to work these irregular hours in his establishment?—We do not interfere with his time of working in any way; if he engages to do them in a certain time we expect them to be done.

7268. I suppose you do not, as a merchant, in accepting orders, first consult the bleacher as to whether he could execute those orders by the time the vessel sails?—No; from our experience of what we have had done before, we calculate that he ought to do the same again in the same time.

7269. From your experience, are you of opinion that legislation cannot be applied advantageously to bleaching and dyeing works?—I think not.

7270. Do you think that they are less healthy in that operation than other branches of the cotton manufacture?—In bleach works, from having worked in bleaching, and from what I have seen of the workpeople in both kinds of work, they always appeared to me healthy, and lively, and clean, and comfortable, and quite contented.

7271. It has been suggested to the Committee that if any legislation is wanted it should extend to the establishments in Manchester in which bleaching, calendering, and packing are carried on; what is your opinion as to that?—We do not do anything in that way, excepting in packing. We have goods bleached and delivered by the bleachers, and we pack them. We do not do anything further with them; but I should be very sorry if any interference should be carried so far as to place any restrictions upon the time of packing.

7272. Do you think it fair towards the bleacher to subject him in his packing and finishing departments to a legislation which you would not subject the independent finisher and packer to?—No, I do not think so. I do not know that we ever carried it so far as to interfere in anything of that kind.

7273. The opinion, as I understand, that you wish to convey to the Committee is, that you deprecate legislative interference as regards bleaching and dyeing?—Decidedly so.

7274. Mr. *Crook*.] Have you had to do lately with the sending off the goods. Have you had the superintendence of the delivery of them?—Not lately. I have not had to do with business for 18 months; I have given it over to my sons entirely.

7275. How many years do you suppose it would be since you had the active superintendence of the delivery of the orders?—I should say two years.

7276. During the time that you had the management and despatch of orders,

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have you never found orders that it was impossible to send off all at once?—That might be the exception, but I should think there was not anything of the sort done, because it is contrary to rule and contrary to what is likely to suit the customers.

7277. Do you think that you never had an order for which you had not the goods ready manufactured?—We had them ready manufactured, and we frequently got what we had not got in our own manufactory; we have to make up the lot by purchase.

7278. You said that, if a bleacher delivered goods in a certain time, you expected him to do the same again?—Yes.

7279. In what time did you at that time expect him to deliver the goods?—In the same time as he had done before.

7280. Is your delivery of goods always in precisely a uniform time?—Not exactly so; sometimes we have goods which we could give him a little more time for; if it is intended for the home trade, we keep an assortment, and we have more time for those.

7281. Do you mean the Committee to understand that you left the time to his convenience?—Yes, in goods for the warehouse, to be shown and exposed to the home customers, not for export.

7282. What time do you give the bleacher for goods for export?—I cannot speak to that.

7283. Do you know that you had any limit?—Yes, we had a limit from what we knew we had done before.

7284. You do not know what the limit was?—No, I cannot speak positively to that.

7285. Have you a warehouse in Manchester?—Yes.

7286. Do you conform to the half-holiday movement on Saturday in that warehouse?—Yes, I think we do.

7287. Supposing that, by voluntary arrangement, the bleachers were to agree to shut up at six o'clock every night, do you apprehend that any injurious results would follow to the merchant?—I should think that they would, if it was a fixed rule that they were to give over at that time.

7288. If it were the rule to give over at six o'clock, what sort of inconvenience would result?—We might be disappointed in goods being brought in at the time that we expected, according to what they had done before.

7289. If this system became a rule, would not you fall into it just as you do now under the present arrangement?—If we were forced into the rule by Act of Parliament as we have been by the Factory Act, we might, but I should be very sorry that such a system should ever be forced upon us.

7290. Have you any reason, from the working of the Factory Act, to be sorry for such a result?—There is some interference in the Factory Act which I should be grieved at, if it should be the law of the country.

7291. Has it been any cause of grief in its bearing upon women and children?—No; more particularly with respect to the interference of the inspectors.

7292. Can you inform the Committee that the Act would interfere with the workpeople disadvantageously?—I cannot say as to that.

7393. Can you give the Committee any proof that it interferes with the workpeople to their disadvantage?—No, I do not know that I can from my experience upon the point.

7294. Is the Committee to understand that the influence of the Factory Act only clashes with the prejudice of the master millowners?—No, I cannot speak as to that.

7295. Can you tell the Committee in what way it does operate disadvantageously?—There has frequently been unpleasantness with the manufacturers.

7296. Have you had anything unpleasant yourself?—Yes.

7297. Mr. *Turner*.] Do not you know that the millowners detest the very sight of an inspector or sub-inspector about their premises?—As far as I myself was concerned, I was so disgusted with it that I gave it up to the manager entirely.

7298. Are not you aware that a very unpleasant feeling generally exists in the minds of the master spinners with regard to legislative interference?—I think there is a very general feeling of dissatisfaction.

7299. Do they not consider themselves treated with great injustice, as a class, by being put under legislative interference?—They feel that the interference by the inspectors is, as I should say, overbearing and tyrannical in the manner of the inspection.

7300. I think you say that you are not quite aware of the operations of the Factory Act; you only give it as a general opinion?—I give it as a general opinion, for I gave it up to the manager, and now my sons have taken it in hand.

7301. Would it not be easy to summon 50 or 100 factory owners here who would give a decided opinion upon this subject?—I have heard very little of it, and I have not wished to come in contact with them, but they interfered so far, that the manufacturers could not submit.

7302. Were not they at last compelled to resort to that which was very unpleasant to them; to associate themselves together in order that, by combined action, they might do themselves justice?—It ended in that, and I do not wonder at it.

7303. Mr. *Crook*.] Had that any reference to the inspectors?—Yes; I have a case that I had to do with myself. A factory inspector came into my mill, and insisted upon a spinner being sent for into the warehouse; I objected to the spinner being sent for and taken from his work, I having to be answerable for his work, and to pay him his wages, and I was determined that he should not come, and the inspector did submit, but very angrily.

7304. Mr. *Cheetham*.] I believe the factory inspectors are not a very popular class in Lancashire?—No.

7305. *Chairman*.] Do you say that the factory inspectors are unpopular among all classes, including the working people?—No; among the masters in particular.

John Nutall Slater, Esq., called in, and Examined.

7306. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Do you carry on business in Dunscar?—Yes.

7307. Have you worked yourself in several departments of it?—I have worked in every department, from 15 years to 26 as a workman.

7308. Is the work now as hard or laborious as it was when you began?—Nothing like it.

7309. Were your works visited by Mr. Tremenheere?—They were.

7310. Have you a list of the persons employed at your works?—I have a paper with me; I have examined it; he has taken the evidence of four girls, and there are no such names in our employ, nor ever have been, and the evidence he has taken as regards myself is not correct.

7311. Mr. Tremenheere professes to have examined Amelia Wood, a worker at your works; have you any person of the name of Amelia Wood in your works, or had you at that time?—No, nor ever had.

7312. Had you a person named Mary Greenhalgh employed in your works?—No.

7313. Had you a person of the name of Mary Ann Vickers?—No.

7314. Or Mary Ann Smith?—No.

7315. There are four persons whom Mr. Tremenheere professes to have examined at your works that you say never entered your works?—No; there is one girl, Mary Ann Greenhalgh, she is described as Mary Greenhalgh; but the evidence he gave is not the evidence she gave in my presence, nor did he state the whole that she said. After he had asked her himself, I asked her a question myself. I asked if she had not been turned away from our employment at one time, and she admitted that she had, and that she went to the mill just below us and worked there for a time; and I asked her again whether she did not leave that mill to come to us. I said, "Did not you come as soon as you had an opportunity back to our employ?" and she said, "Yes." He has not stated the whole of that evidence.

7316. Will you inform the Committee of the mode in which Mr. Tremenheere examined her?—The mode of his examination was to get evidence in support of the Bill, taking no evidence which was against it.

7317. Did you interpose and examine her yourself in Mr. Tremenheere's presence?—I did, and in his hearing.

7318. Did you elicit from her the fact that she had been discharged for idleness from your works?—Yes.

7319. And had gone to a mill, but had returned as soon as she heard of a vacancy in your works?—It is so.

7320. With regard to what you said to him yourself, has Mr. Tremenheere, in your opinion, misstated what you said?—He has, and has given great offence by

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so doing in the neighbourhood; Messrs. Chadwick, Phillips & Company have a mill below us, and they have made and maintained a park where all the workmen in the neighbourhood were allowed to go so long as they behaved themselves; he has made me state that I called that a public park; I did not say so; it has given great offence to them.

7321. Have you read the evidence given by Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair to this Committee?—I have read Mr. Hardcastle's evidence, but not Mr. Blair's.

7322. Do you agree with what Mr. Hardcastle has stated?—I do.

7323. Have you yourself chapels and schools established in connexion with your works?—We have; and we have contributed largely towards them; I think the chapel and school have cost in all about 3,000 *l.* to our family, which, if it had to be done now, would not be done.

7324. Why would it not be done now?—Because there is a bad feeling existing between men and their employers; they seem to take everything as a right.

7325. Is that in consequence of this agitation?—Yes, a great part of it.

7326. Is it the fact, that in consequence of this agitation, you yourself do not entertain quite so cordial a feeling towards your work people as you did?—We do not, nor do they to us, I believe.

7327. Have you a library connected with your works?—We have, and the men are subscribers to the library. We subscribe considerably ourselves to the library to keep it up, and they have a good collection of books at the library.

7328. Is it much used?—It is.

7329. Can most of your workpeople write?—I know none but what can.

7330. Can most of them read?—They can.

7331. Did you ever mark a quittance paper given to John Waring, and prevent him from getting work?—I never marked a quittance paper in my life, and I never saw one marked by any one. I know of no such thing.

7332. You do not know that any such practice prevails among master bleachers?—No; I am certain it does not, or I should have known it.

7333. Mr. *Cheetham*]. How many girls have you in your works?—Thirty-five.

7334. From what ages?—Two of 14, seven of 15, one of 16, two of 17, one of 18, and 12 above 19 years of age.

7335. Mr. *Turner*.] Have you any under eleven?—Not in that department; that is, the hookers' department. In the beetling department we have one boy of 13, one of 14, five of 16, four of 17, one of 18, one of 19, two of 20, and six above 21 years of age. In the crofts where machinery is now being adopted we have one of 9, two of 10, four of 11, two of 12, six of 13, two of 14, one of 15, one of 17 (and six above 21 years of age. Two of them employed in looking after the boys), and four in the bleaching of counterpanes.

7336. How many have you under 11?— We have seven at 11 and under.

7337. In the crofting department, is not the work all in the day time?—All in the day time and by day work.

7338. How many hours do those boys work?—They should work on an average throughout the year 10 hours a day; but I do not think they average more than eight.

7339. How many hours do they ever work?—Sometimes we have to keep one or two of them later at night to bring down the gray cloth, and if they stop till eight o'clock they come at eight the morning after.

7340. The extra hour that they remain at night is deducted in the morning?—The extra hour is deducted in the morning. The same applies to our finishing department, where we have to keep one or two hands to get up odd lots; they come later in the morning following.

7341. Mr. *Butt*.] Did I rightly understand you to say that as to your evidence given before Mr. Tremenheere, the only complaint you make is that at the close of it he states, "Our people can all read, and all can write more or less; we have a lending library, and the books are much read. We have also a public park, and various amusements are much entered into by our people"?—It is not a public park, it was made and maintained by the manufacturers whom I have mentioned, but our workpeople and ourselves are allowed to go in, and they could stop us at any time.

7342. Is that the only inaccuracy in your evidence as stated by Mr. Tremenheere?—I think it is.

7343. The rest is accurate?—Yes.

7344. Then

7344. Then follows the evidence of four witnesses, Mary Ann Smith, Amelia Wood, Mary Greenhalgh, and Mary Ann Vickers?—Yes.

7345. Did I rightly understand you to say that Mary Ann Smith does not work for you?—No, she does not.

7346. Nor Amelia Wood?—No.

7347. Mary Greenhalgh does work with you; but her name is Mary Ann?—There was a Mary Ann Greenhalgh at our works, but her evidence does not correspond with that attributed to her by Mr. Tremenheere.

7348. And that you have no one named Mary Ann Vickers in your works?—No.

7349. Is there anything in the evidence to show that Mr. Tremenheere reports them as being in your works?—Nothing further than this: that we take it for granted, as they follow my evidence in all other cases, it is so.

7350. You succeeded your father in those bleach works?—I did.

7351. How long ago is it that you succeeded your father?—I believe four or five years since.

7352. Have there been at any time, in your works, women and children at work as late as 10 and 11 at night?—There have.

7353. Beginning at nine in the morning?—Yes, but not lately; the thing is changing, and will change.

7354. Is not there a gradual change going on in your bleaching works?—It is; the thing does not exist now. As I stated before, as people working till eight or nine o'clock at night, if we did so continuously, they would leave us.

7355. *Chairman.*] Have there, at any time within the last five years, been women and children working so late as 10 or 11 at night?—I do not think they have since the putting up of machinery, which has lessened the hours of labour considerably.

7356. Is it not the fact that soon after you began work you put up improved machinery?—We did; I am partner with my uncle.

7357. That has shortened the hours of labour?—It has, very much indeed.

7358. Before the machinery was put up, had there been anything like working so late as 10 or 11 o'clock at night?—I believe it was irregular before that.

7359. And beginning at six in the morning?—It was not regular one day with another at that time.

7360. Have there been cases in which they have worked from six in the morning till one at night?—Not within these 10 years, I should think.

7361. They have done so?—They have done so.

7362. Has it ever occurred that they have worked all day and all night?—No, no one can do that.

7363. Has it not been done occasionally?—No, I do not believe it.

7364. Mr. *Crook.*] Is there not a park in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

7365. Would there be any objection to anybody walking in that park?—I think not.

7366. You have not personal proprietary in that park?—No, we have no interest in it.

7367. Upon what footing is the library of which you have spoken?—Each subscriber to the library may make use of it; and we were called upon to subscribe, but we subscribe far beyond what the others do, to make a library for the workpeople.

7368. Do you subscribe on behalf of your workpeople?—No; we subscribe for ourselves, and the workpeople on their own account.

7369. Is their right to this library derived from their own subscriptions?—It is altogether on their own account, although we subscribe more than they do, it is not in proportion to the subscription at all.

7370. The right to the use of it is a return for the subscription?—It is.

7371. Every workman who goes to the library must individually subscribe?—Every one.

7372. Is it a library in which you have any proprietary right?—I do not know how it would be supposing it were broken up; I do not know where the books would go to; it is done for the benefit of the workpeople.

7373. In whose premises is the library kept?—It is kept on the premises of Messrs. Chadwick, Phillips & Co., it is in a part of the school built for their own mill; the library is held in a part of it.

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7374. Mr. *Butt.*] That is the factory mill?—That is the factory mill. But there are other schools, chapels and church in the neighbourhood, and many subscribers to the library as well as ourselves.

7375. Are those chapels and schools public institutions?—Certainly.

7376. Do you know a person of the name of John Waring?—No, I do not, only from the report.

7377. The Honourable Member for Manchester asked you a question about Waring, do you know of such a man?—I do not know him individually.

7378. Have you ever had that man in your employ?—I cannot tell, some one said we had; but if he had been in our employ it had not been for a long time.

7379. It is not to your knowledge that he was in your employ?—It is not.

7380. If this Bill passes would it interfere with your hours of labour much?—Not much; but it would interfere with them, we could not carry on our business under it at all, because we could not fetch up any odd pieces which were dirtied and displaced; we frequently have to keep one or two of the hands to clean pieces that get dirtied, and if they stop an hour or two after the rest, they come so much later in the morning.

7381. Could not you have these odd pieces done by men above 18 and adult males?—We could not put men to hooking, which girls do, they are not fitted for it.

7382. Are the Committee to understand that it is only as regards the odd pieces that this law will affect you?—It only affects us in that way.

7383. You have informed the Committee that the hours of labour are much reduced by machinery, and other things, since you have been in the trade?—It is so.

7384. Can you give the Committee any evidence to show any injurious effect as resulting to the merchants, or to the trade generally?—I have nothing to do with the merchants, I speak of the bleach trade only.

7385. Has it affected you injuriously?—It has not been brought into operation, it cannot affect us yet.

7386. You informed the Committee that there has been a great reduction in the hours of labour since you have known the trade?—There has.

7387. Can you give the Committee any evidence to show that this reduction in the hours of labour has operated injuriously upon your trade, or upon the merchants connected you?—No, it cannot; but I cannot see how that bears upon the matter.

7388. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Will you explain what you mean by a reduction in the hours of labour?—We can get our work done in less time than we used to do, by applying machinery instead of manual labour.

7389. So that by the aid of machinery which you have introduced, you have saved a great quantity of manual labour, and a great number of hours?—Yes.

7390. Consequently you have relieved the workmen to a greater extent than they were before?—Yes, we have taken off all the laborious part of the work. Formerly we used to lift the pieces up which now are removed by machinery; they are hoisted up to the level, and then taken away on trucks or waggons.

7391. Where machinery is in operation, reducing the number of hours, is it enabling you to employ the workpeople more continuously and regularly?—Yes.

7392. What is your opinion in respect of the prospects of the introduction of this improved machinery generally in the bleaching trade?—I think it has, and will, lessen the hours of labour without legislation.

7393. If that goes on without legislation, would not other establishments following in your track reduce the hours of labour as you have done?—There is no doubt of it.

7394. Will not that result be, in your opinion, better carried out by means of machinery, or by voluntary arrangements between the masters and the men, than by legislation?—It would.

7395. You stated to the Committee that, in your opinion, the agitation for legislation has created a worse feeling between masters and men than existed before?—That is my decided opinion.

7396. Supposing that agitation consummated by an Act of Parliament, would it strengthen that feeling, or reduce it?—It would make it worse; even talking about it has made it worse than it was before.

7397. So

7397. So that, upon that view of the case, as well as upon other considerations, you deprecate any interference by legislation?—I do.

7398. Mr. *Butt.*] Did I rightly understand yon to say that legislation, such as we are now considering, would promote the introduction of improved machinery?—No doubt it would; we should try to do without women and children as far as we could.

7399. If an Act like this were passed, the effect would be that bleachers generally would improve their machinery?—They would employ machinery as much as possible. I think that if they would take my advice, they would give a premium to any improvement that could be made.

7400. May I ask how far your establishment at Dunscar is from Bolton?—Three miles.

7401. Do you know that there is another gentleman of your name who has an establishment at Bolton?—Yes; his name is Mr. John Slater; but mine is John Nutall Slater.

7402. Then if any of John Waring's statements apply to your namesake at Bolton, of course you are not able to say whether they are true or not?—I am certain that they are not true, so far as the quittance paper is concerned. If there were such things, I should know it. If a person came to me, and I asked him for his quittance paper, if there were such a mark upon the quittance paper, I should know something about it.

7403. Are the Committee to understand you distinctly to deny that it is the habit to grant quittance papers with a private mark?—I am positive it is not the case.

7404. Mr. *Kirk.*] May I ask whether you yourself have worked at any of these processes?—I have worked at all of them; I worked in the works from 15 years to 26.

7405. Was it injurious to health?—I do not know whether it is injurious to health, but it was hard work, because the machinery was not applied to it at all, particularly with ourselves, because our goods are heavy when wet, and it is heavy, laborious work to move them.

7406. Mr. *Butt.*] Were you at work from six o'clock in the morning till 11 at night?—Yes, I have, and the man who was my master is a pensioner of ours; he never worked anywhere else. He was apprenticed to my grandfather, and he is in good health still.

7407. Mr. *Cheetham.*] What age is he?—Seventy-three. I could have wished to have brought him here that the Committee might have judged for themselves.

7408. I believe you are the patentee of some of the improved machinery introduced in bleachworks?—Yes.

7409. Are you of opinion that many improvements are likely to be discovered in the various processes of bleaching?—I am.

7410. Would you advocate an Act of Parliament to further the improvement of machinery?—I do not think you can make an Act of Parliament to affect it at all. As to my patent, it paid the expenses of obtaining it, but I found it so troublesome, from people coming to ask my opinion, and from having to look after the thing, that I gave it up, and have lost sight of it altogether.

7411. Accepting your statement, that by the improvement of machinery adapted to bleaching processes you may reduce the hours of labour, would you permit an Act of Parliament to enforce you to employ that machinery?—No, I would not.

7412. Mr. *Kirk.*] Is it your opinion that the improvements made by you and others, whether patented or otherwise, have tended to reduce the amount of labour required in bleachworks?—They have done so very much indeed with ourselves, I do not think that we have two-thirds of the workpeople that we had, taking into account the amount we do now and the amount we did then. We have perhaps as many hands, but our work has much increased.

7413. Mr. *Cheetham.*] May the Committee understand that you have not more than two-thirds of the number of labourers, taking into account the increased quantity done?—We have reduced our hands one-third.

7414. Will you state to the Committee the proportionate amount of reduction of labour of each individual?—I think the same proportion would represent it; viz., one-third of the manual labour; because we have reduced our men, not so much our children; we have children to do what the men used to do; for instance, the crofters are little lads that have nothing to do but to stand at the machine and see that it works right; if anything is wrong he corrects it himself,

J. N. Slater, Esq.

28 July 1857.

or else he calls out to the man who looks after them to come to it; he has nothing to do but to overlook the machinery.

7415. Do not those improvements which you have introduced give you an advantage over those men who have not introduced them?—I think they could not carry their works on without those improvements.

7416. Will not the time come when the individuals who have not followed in your steps must withdraw from the trade?—Yes.

7417. So that in the natural course of things those improvements must take place?—Yes.

7418. Was not the benefit that you have spoken of as resulting to the work-people, brought about without interference?—Yes.

7419. Would not you advocate the natural course of events being left to work itself out without interference?—I would.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

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Paper delivered in by *S. Blair*, Esq., 21 July 1857 - - - - - p. 180

Paper delivered in by *S. Blair*, Esq., 24 July 1857 - - - - - p. 182

No. 1.

DIAGRAM

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq^r., 7^th July, 1857.

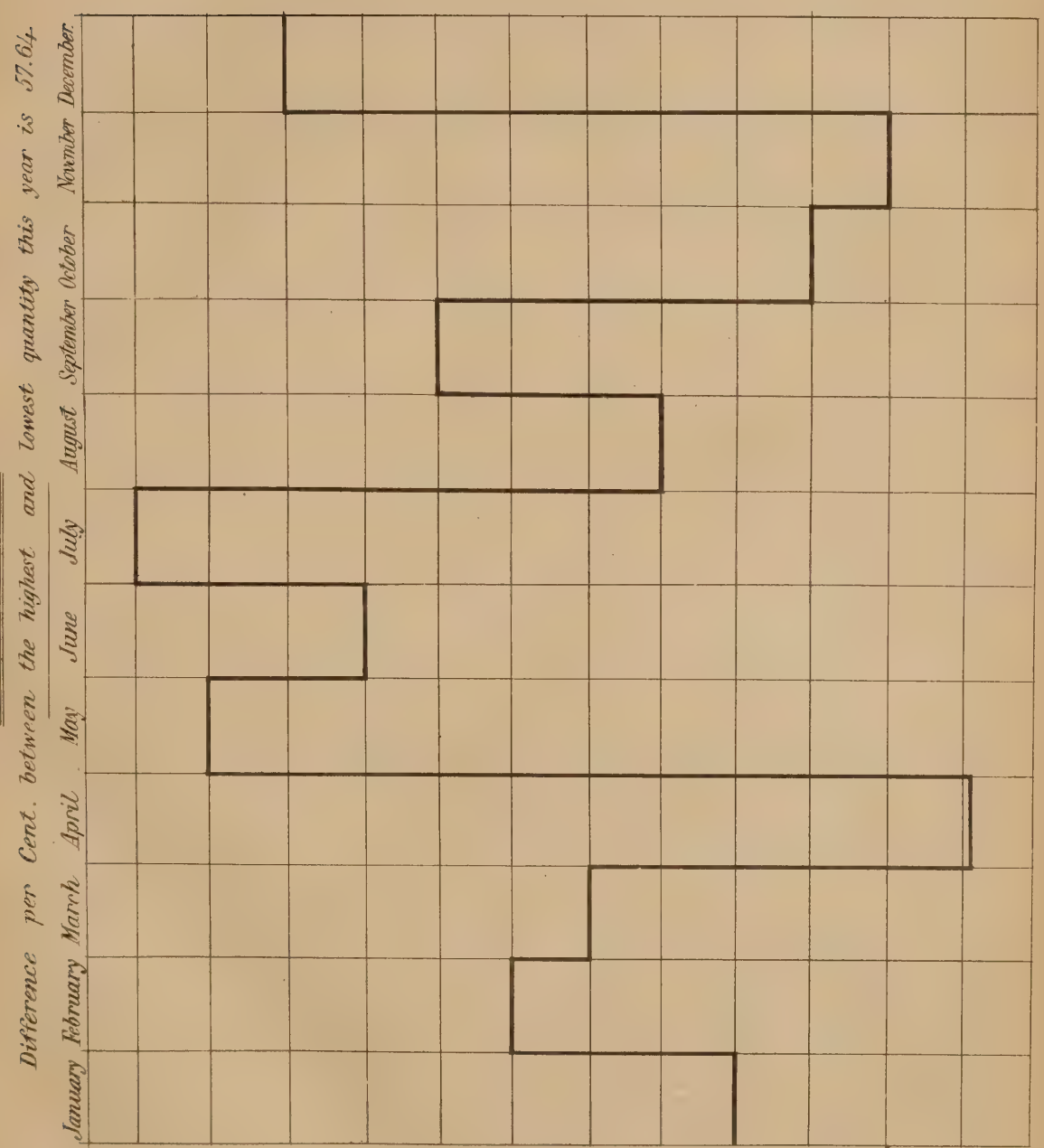

Difference per Cent. between the highest and lowest quantity this year is 57.64.
January February March April May June July August September October November December

TABLE OF PERCENTAGES.
SCALE FOR THE YEAR 1854.

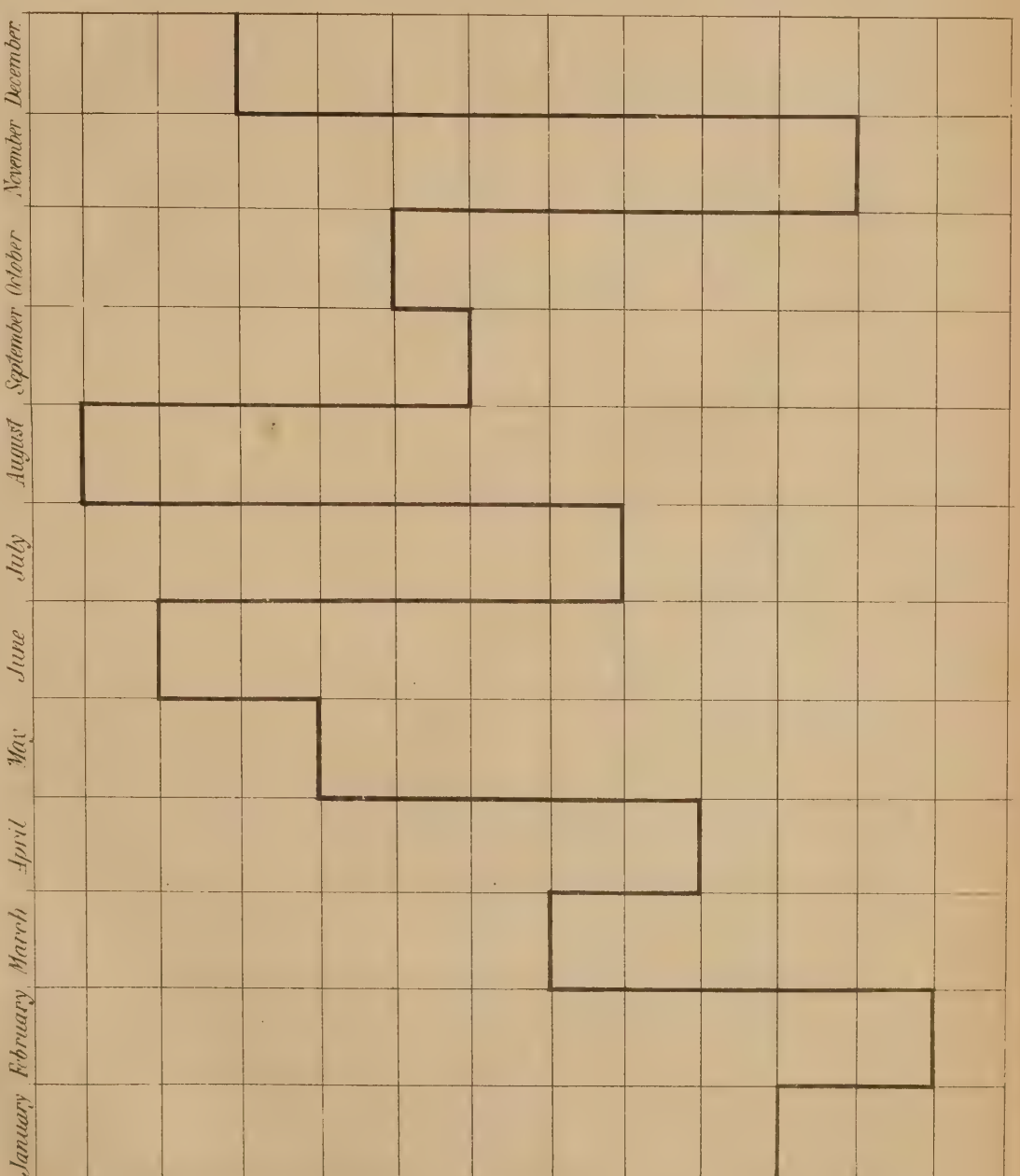
Basire Lithog.

No. 211.—(Sess. 2.) Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 28th July, 1857.
Henry Hansard, Printer.

No. 2.

DIAGRAM

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq.r, 7th July, 1857.



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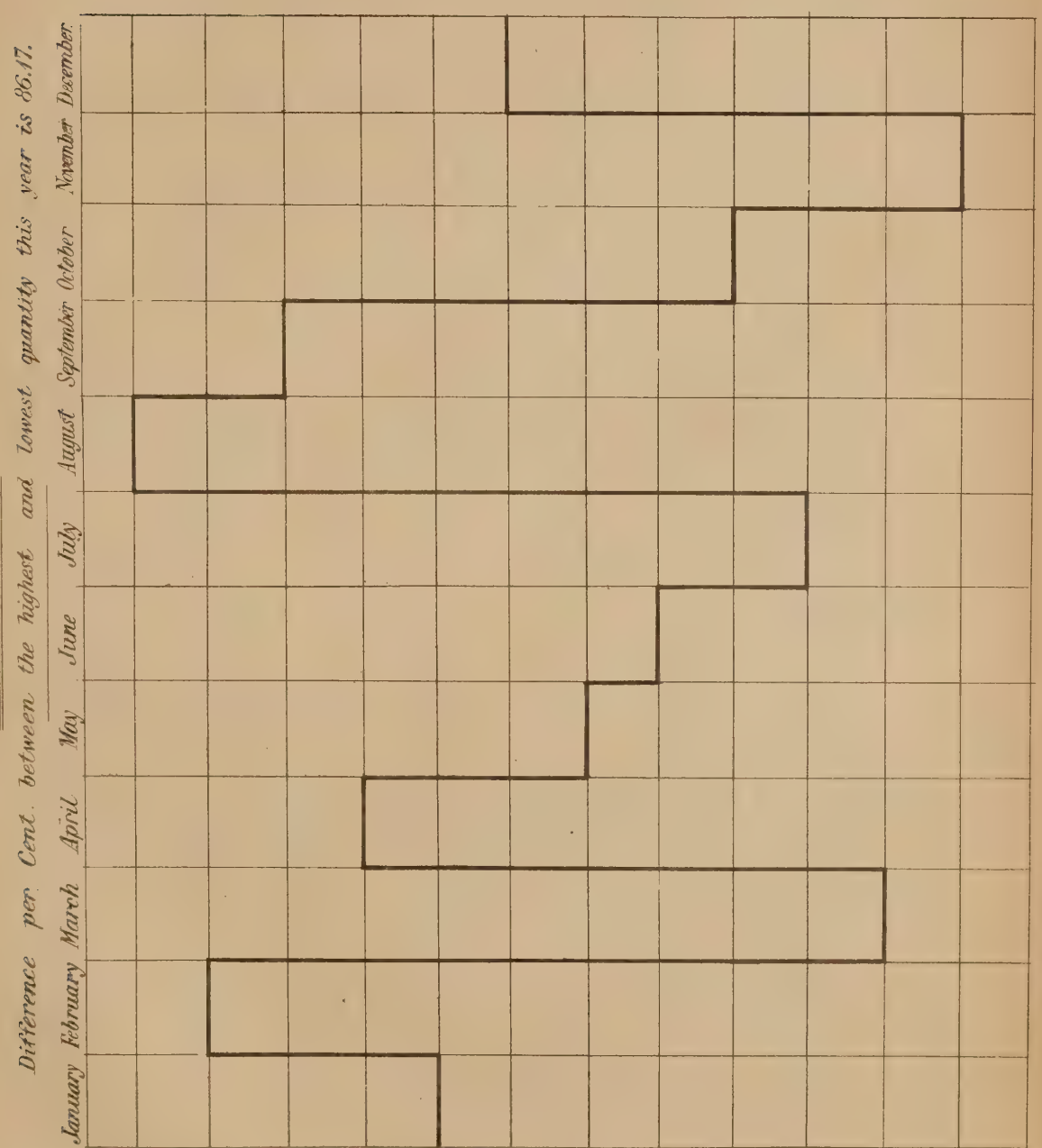
No. 211.—(Sess. 2.) Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 28th July, 1857.

Henry Hansard, Printer.

No 3.

DIAGRAM

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq^r., 7^th July, 1857.



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No 211.—Sess 2. Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed 28th July, 1857.

Henry Hansard, Printer

APPENDIX.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair*, Esq., 7 July 1857.

THE following is a statement of the average working hours in the undermentioned departments at Messrs. Blair & Sumner's Mill Hill Bleach Works, from the 1st of June 1856 to the 31st of May 1857, both dates inclusive, viz.:—

	Hours.		Days.		Hours.		Divided by 311 Days would be
Stitching gray cloth - -	2,907	÷	307	-	Average 9·469 per day,		9·347
Bleaching - - -	3,214	÷	307	-	„	10·469 „	10·334
Mangling and stiffening -	3,214	÷	307	-	„	10·469 „	10·334
Stoving - - - -	3,254	÷	307	-	„	10·599 „	10·463
Calendering, damping, &c.	3,431½	÷	307	-	„	11·177 „	11·033
Making up, packing, &c. -	3,388½	÷	307	-	„	11·037 „	10·895

In the above we deduct 52 Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas-day. Two days allowed for recreation at the beginning of January, and two days at Whitsuntide, viz., 365 days in the year, minus 58 days, equals 307 working days.

Appendix.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair*, Esq., 21 July 1857.

RECAPITULATION.

	NUMBERS EMPLOYED.				
	Men, Full Age, 21 Years.	Women, 18 and Above.	Boys.	Girls under 18.	Total.
Machine Stitching, Gray-room, and Dressing Departments, viz.:					
2 Men, full age 1 Boy, 18 years 1 Boy, 16 years 6 Women, above 18 years 5 Girls, under 18 years	2	6	2	5	—
The age of the youngest in this department is 15 years.					
Crofting Department, viz.:					
2 Men, full age 1 Boy, 19 years 1 Boy, 17 years 2 Boys, 16 years 2 Boys, 15 years 3 Boys, 14 years 1 Boy, 13 years 6 Boys, 12 years 1 Boy, 11 years	2	- -	17	—	—
The youngest in this department is 11 years.					
Mangling and Stiffening Department, viz.:					
8 Men, full age 2 Boys, 18 years 1 Boy, 17 years 4 Boys, 16 years 2 Boys, 15 years 2 Boys, 14 years 2 Women, above 18 years 1 Girl, 16 years	8	2	11	1	—
The youngest in this department is 14 years.					
Tinning Department, viz.:					
2 Men, full age 1 Boy, 19 years 1 Boy, 13 years	2	- -	2	—	—
The youngest in this department is 13 years. The hands in this department are only casually employed.					
Stoving Department, viz.:					
6 Men, full age 1 Boy, 20 years 1 Boy, 19 years 1 Boy, 18 years 2 Boys, 16 years 1 Boy, 14 years 1 Boy, 12 years	6	- -	7	—	
The youngest in this department is 12 years.					
Damping and Calendering Department, viz.:					
5 Men, full age 1 Boy, 19 years 1 Boy, 17 years 1 Boy, 16 years 1 Boy, 15 years	5	- -	4	—	—
The youngest in this department is 15 years.					
Carried forward - - -	25	8	43	6	—

	NUMBERS EMPLOYED.				
	Men, Full Age, 21 years.	Women, 18 and Above.	Boys.	Girls under 18.	Total.
Brought forward - - -	25	8	43	6	—
Hooking, making up, and Packing Department, viz.:					
14 Men, full age - - - - -					
1 Boy, 20 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 19 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 18 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 16 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 15 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 14 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 12 years - - - - -	14	10	7	14	—
10 Women, above 18 years - - - -					
3 Girls, 17 years - - - - -					
2 Girls, 16 years - - - - -					
2 Girls, 15 years - - - - -					
3 Girls, 14 years - - - - -					
3 Girls, 13 years - - - - -					
1 Girl, 12 years - - - - -					
The youngest in this department is 12 years.					
TOTAL number of hands employed by the piece - - - - - - -	39	18	50	20	127
We also employ Datal Hands, as under, viz.:					
Bookkeepers and manager - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
Carter - - - - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—
Manchester agent and porters - - -	5	- -	1	—	—
Engineer and Firemen - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
Millwrights, &c. - - - - - -	8	- -	1	—	—
Watchman - - - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—
Farm - - - - - - - -	1	1	—	—	—
Spademen - - - - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
	67	19	52	20	158

The ages are all taken last birthday.

We have also employed at present 11 men boring for water, not named in the above recapitulation.

	Read and Write.	Read.	Cannot Read or Write.	TOTAL.
Machine stitching - - - - -	6	9	- - -	15
Crofting department - - - -	9	10	- - -	19
Mangling and stiffening - - -	15	5	2	22
Tinning department - - - -	2	2	- - -	4
Stoving department - - - -	8	3	2	13
Damping and calendering - - -	7	- - -	2	9
Hooking, making up, and packing - -	31	7	7	45
	78	36	13	127

Robert Hardman came to work at Mill-hill two weeks before the first election for Bolton in 1832.

Edward Quin came to work at Mill-hill 4th September 1836.

AGES.

Result:—Total 9—8 boys, 1 girl under 13 ; of these 1 boy is 11, a second boy 12, and 1 girl 12.

Appendix.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair*, Esq., 24 July 1857.

Mill Hill Bleach Works,
Bolton, 22 July 1857.

Dear Mr. Blair,

As requested in your letter to Mr. Sumner, received this morning, I now send you particulars of each day's work, from November 18th, 1854, to January 18th, 1855, both dates inclusive, viz.:—

	Time of Starting.	Time of Leaving Work.	
1854:			
November 18	-	-	Stopped for repairs.
20	6 o'clock, a.m.	7 o'clock p.m.	13.
21	6 „	7 „	13.
22	6 „	5⅓ „	11½.
23	6½ „	4 „	9½.
24	6½ „	4 „	9½.
25	6 „	5 „	11.
27	6½ „	7⅛ „	13.
28	8 „	6 „	10.
29	8 „	8 „	12.
30	6 „	9 „	15.
December 1	6 „	8 „	14.
2	6 „	6 „	12.
4	6 „	7 „	13.
5	6 „	9 „	15.
6	6 „	8 „	14.
7	7 „	7 „	12.
8	7 „	8 „	13.
9	6 „	7 „	13.
11	6 „	10 „	16.
12	6 „	9 „	15.
13	6 „	9½ „	15½.
14	6 „	9½ „	15½.
15	6 „	10 „	16.
16	6 „	7 „	13.
18	6 „	9 „	15.
19	6 „	9 „	15.
20	6 „	10 „	16.
21	6 „	10 „	16.
22	6 „	8 „	14.
23	6 „	7 „	13.
25	-	-	Do not work at all.
26	6 „	8 „	14.
27	6 „	8 „	14
28	6 „	8 „	14.
29	6 „	9 „	15.
30	6 „	6 „	15.
1855:			
January 1	-	-	Do not work at all.
2	-	-	Do not work at all.
3	6 „	8 „	14.
4	6 „	9 „	15.
5	6 „	9 „	15.
6	6 „	9 „	15.
8	6 „	7½ „	13½.
9	6 „	8 „	14.
10	6 „	8 „	14.
11	6 „	8 „	14.

		Time of Starting.	Time of Leaving Work.	
1855:				
January	12	6 o'clock a.m.	8 o'clock p.m.	14.
	13	6 „	4 „	10.
	15	6 „	8 „	14.
	16	6 „	8 „	14.
	17	6 „	8½ „	14½.
	18	6 „	8 „	14.

The hours given include meal times, which are ½ an hour, from 8 o'clock to 8½ o'clock, a.m.
1 „ „ 12 „ a.m. 1 „ p.m.
½ „ „ 5 „ p.m. 5½ „ p.m.
Also stoppages during the day, as before explained.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Glaister.*

Two hours per day will have to be deducted for meals off.

Hours per Day on the Ground.

9	10	11	11½	12	13	13½	14	14½	15	15½	16	
2	2	1	1	3	8	1	14	1	10	2	4	= 570½ hours.

From 18th November 1854 to 18th January 1855, is 62 days
Deduct 9 Sundays - - - 9

53 working days.

53) 570½ (10·754.
53

40·0
371

290
265

250
212

38

Average per day 10·754
Deduct 2 hours for meals 2

8·754, including waiting for work.

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[*N. B.*—In this Index the Figures following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions in the Evidence.]

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Adult Labour. Interference with the labour of grown-up men and women is very questionable policy, *Barbour* 2135——Probable effect of a limit as regards the hours of labour of women and children upon the hours of labour of adults, *Scott* 2236–2243.

Interference with adult male labour, if the labour of women and children be restricted, *Mackinley* 4407. 4448–4451; *Hardcastle* 5805; *Blair* 6228——Witness is opposed to the Bill on account of its interference with the hours of labour of boys, such interference preventing also the continued labour of men, *Henchy* 4458–4463. 4493, 4494——Regularity of the hours in witness's works adverted to with reference to the extent to which the Bill would interfere with the employment of the boys; such interference would be an obstruction to the labour of the men, and to the process generally, *Kirk* 4685–4698. 4715–4717.

Partial interference with the labour of the adults if the labour of the boys and girls be limited to ten hours daily *John Burton*, 5279–5283. 5289–5297——Necessity of the employment of the juveniles going on simultaneously with that of the adults, *Keely* 5357–5361. 5406, 5407. 5430–5432——Way in which restriction upon the labour of the boys and females would necessarily interfere with the labour of the men, *Ripley* 5875–5878. 5899–5904. 5911–5913. 5934–5937.

See also *Commission of Inquiry. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Operatives. Wages.*

AGE OF EMPLOYMENT:

1. *Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work.*
2. *Considerations as to the expediency of Legislative Restriction.*

1. *Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work:*

In most of the works, witness found several very young children, *Tremenheere* 48–52 ——In Ireland, the young persons rarely begin to work before they are thirteen years of age, *J. Waring* 435, 436——Ages of the boys and young females at Bolton, &c., who work occasionally for sixteen hours daily; the boys are sometimes only nine years old, *ib.* 993–1004——Many children at Bolton begin work under nine years of age, *ib.* 1074, 1075.

Practice lately adopted by Mr. Hardcastle not to employ children under twelve years of age, *Miller* 1230. 1243–1249——Children are not now taken at Mr. Bridson's works under ten years of age, *Mather* 1330. 1359, 1360 ——The girls and boys at Halliwell began work at the age of nine and ten, and worked for the same number of hours as the adults, *Milton* 1403, 1404. 1406, 1407. 1440, 1441—— At places where witness has worked the children have not commenced till ten or eleven, *Fletcher* 1652 ——Two sons of witness, at Mr. Ainsworth's, commenced to work when about twelve years of age, *Price* 1879–1882——Children at Bolton begin work when ten or eleven years of age, *Crook* 2457.

Witness commenced work when eight years old, for Mr. Milnes, of New Baisford; he was then quite uneducated, *Shelbourne* 2784–2787——Witness commenced work when ten or eleven years old, *Betts* 2919–2921——The young persons employed at Lisburn are from the age of twelve or thirteen upwards, *Kelso* 4195——In the bleach-works at Keady boys are not employed under fourteen years of age, *Leeper* 4281. 4311 —— Boys under fourteen years of age are not taken into witness's works, *Kirk* 4555. 4606, 4607.

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

AGE OF EMPLOYMENT—continued.

1. *Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work*—continued.

There are eight girls and two boys under seventeen years of age in witness's employment, but none under the age of thirteen, *Harrison* 4992, 4993. 5009. 5010. 5031–5035. 5078–5080——The ages of the young persons in witness's employment vary from nine to seventeen, *John Burton* 5155, 5156——Number of children in witness's employment who are only nine or ten years of age; earliest age at which taken, *ib.* 5195–5197. 5284–5288——The youngest persons employed by witness are one female under thirteen, and two boys between ten and eleven; employment of these explained, *Hardcastle* 5515, 5516.

Witness employs 127 hands, of whom only nine are under thirteen years of age, *Blair* 5809–5811——Objection of witness to employ girls under eleven years of age, *ib.* 5839, 5840——Witness employs 491 persons, of whom only thirteen are women and seventy-five are boys between thirteen and eighteen years of age, *Ripley* 5870–5872——As a rule, children under thirteen are not employed, *ib.* 5873. 5962, 5963——Doubt as to there being any females so young as fifteen at witness's works, *ib.* 5985, 5986.

The employment formerly of children so young as nine or ten does not apply now, machinery tending to displace such labour altogether, *Blair* 6037—— Children under eleven years of age have only been employed by witness at the parents' request, *J. Slater* 6241, 6242. 6281–6284——There is only one person under eleven years of age at Halliwell, who was taken in under peculiar circumstances, *Morris* 6336–6339——Number and ages of the boys and girls employed by witness; there are seven at or under eleven, *J. N. Slater* 7333–7336.

2. *Considerations as to the Expediency of Legislative Restriction*:

Great improvement, if it were practical, to keep children from the bleaching-works till they were thirteen years old, and to educate them up to that time, *Robinson* 573–575. 656 *et seq.*——If children in bleach-works only worked for half a day, or six hours, they should be allowed to work at eight years old, as in factories, *ib.* 583, 584. 674. 680–682——Advantage if children could not work in bleach-works till ten or twelve years of age, *Garstang* 794–798——Children should not be employed in the bleaching-works till they are twelve or thirteen years of age, *H. Waring* 1059. 1083–1089; *Brownbill* 3068; *O'Brien* 4150——Advantage if children did not work till they were eleven or twelve years of age, *Miller* 1257.

On the score of education it is very desirable that some restriction should be imposed in regard to the age of employment of children in bleach-works, *Barbour* 1965–1967. 2135–2153; *Slagg* 2323–2326. 2355–2359. 2382–2391——Children should not be employed till they were twelve or thirteen years old, and till they had attained a certain education, *Slagg* 2382. 2385——Witness told Mr. Tremenheere, and is still of the same opinion, that he was opposed to the employment of girls under thirteen years of age, *Hardcastle* 5529, 5530——Approval of a prohibition upon the labour of all children under twelve years, without any exception as to the character of the employment, *Ryland* 6509. 6547–6549. 6602–6608——Objection to the employment of children at eight years of age in bleach-works, *Southworth* 6848–6850.

Strong objection to the employment of children when eight years old in factories, as being injurious both mentally and morally, *Packer* 6723——It would be well if children under twelve were prohibited from working in factory mills, *Packer* 6724–6729.

See also *Education.* *Factory Act.* *Parents.*

Agitation. Exceptions taken to the term "agitators," as applied to the witnesses, Warings and Pearce, delegates of the men, *Tremenheere* 4800–4802. 4870–4875.

See also *Operatives.*

Agricultural Labourers. Better condition of the people employed in witness's bleach-works than of his agricultural labourers; necessary long hours occasionally of the latter, *Hardcastle* 5544–5546. 5570–5575.

See also *Wages.*

AINSWORTH, MR. (*HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS.*)

1. *Hours of Labour at Halliwell Bleach-works.*
2. *Particulars as to the Number of Hands Employed.*
3. *Conduct of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Education and Religious Instruction of his Workpeople.*
4. *Quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and the late Incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell.*
5. *Views of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Effect of Regular Hours upon the Completion of Orders.*
6. *Other Evidence of a general nature.*

1. *Hours of Labour at Halliwell Bleach-works:*

Evidence as to the extremely long hours for which Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, including the boys and young females, occasionally worked, *Milton* 1395–1407—— Instance of work

AINSWORTH, MR. (*HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS*)—continued.

1. *Hours of Labour at Halliwell Bleach-works*—continued.

work by women and children for 107 hours in the week, or, deducting meal-time, ninety-five hours, *Milton* 1396, 1397——Circumstance of witness having spoken at a public meeting at Bolton in depreciation of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 1419, 1420, 1569–1572——Witness also spoke from the pulpit relative to the hours of labour, *ib.* 1421, 1422. 1515–1517——Up to the time of witness's leaving Halliwell he saw no amelioration of the hours of labour; he cannot speak to the state of things for the last seven years, *ib.* 1442–1448——Concurrence of the local clergymen with witness in regard to the evil of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 1565–1568.

Witness is employed in the finishing and packing department at Halliwell; has been in the same employment for nearly forty-two years, *Price* 1813–1821——The hours of labour varied very much, but were at times excessively long, *ib.* 1825–1831. 1842. 1858–1860——The average hours have been from fourteen to sixteen hours daily, *ib.* 1825, 1826, 1829——Witness and others have worked all night, *ib.* 1827. 1830, 1831——Since the present agitation there has been an improvement in the hours, *ib.* 1832–1836——The females and boys work the same hours as the men, *ib.* 1842.

Over-fatigue of the boys and girls in consequence of the long labour; they are constantly falling asleep at their work, *Price* 1843–1851——Serious effect of the long hours upon the health of a daughter of witness, *ib.* 1853–1857——Witness has often not been twenty hours in bed for the whole week, and has been working the rest of the time; one week he never went to bed at all, *ib.* 1859–1861.

Particulars as to the hours of labour at Halliwell; long hours occasionally, *Morris* 6352–6363. 6391, 6392. 6435, 6436. 6443–6451——Inaccuracy of a statement by Samuel Price that he worked for fifteen or sixteen hours a day throughout the year, *ib.* 6358——Belief that no females or boys now work later than nine at night, *ib.* 6435, 6436. 6451——Reference to some complaints by girls to Mr. Tremenheere with reference to the long hours, *ib.* 6449–6455.

2. *Particulars as to the Number of Hands Employed:*

Doubt as to the number of females and boys now at Halliwell works; when witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere there were eighty females and fifty boys, *Price* 1837–1841——There are 574 persons now employed, of whom eighty-nine are women and girls, and forty-seven boys under eighteen years of age, *Morris* 6335.

3. *Conduct of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Education and Religious Instruction of his Workpeople:*

Statement reflecting on the conduct of Mr. Ainsworth, four or five years ago, relative to the children in his employment going to a school at Halliwell, *H. Waring* 1151–1158.

The church at Halliwell, of which witness was incumbent, was built and endowed by Mr. Ainsworth, *Milton* 1417. 1450, 1451——Mr. Ainsworth also built large schools, and was joint founder of St. Peter's Church, and did a great deal for the benefit of his people, *ib.* 1418. 1463–1467. 1530–1533. 1599–1601——Statement as to Mr. Ainsworth having forbidden the people connected with his works to attend the church, *ib.* 1423–1434. 1449. 1509. 1510——Witness cannot distinctly say that Mr. Ainsworth threatened his workpeople with dismissal if they attended church, *ib.* 1425–1434.

Mr. Ainsworth, in whose establishment such long hours of labour occur, is a very honourable gentleman, and has done a good deal for his workpeople in the way of providing schools and churches, *Price* 1862–1864. 1910. 1911——Mr. Ainsworth is a strict disciplinarian, *Morris* 6419——Liberal and benevolent character of Mr. Ainsworth; attention paid by him to the education and social improvement of his people, *ib.* 6420–6424, 6465 *et seq.*——Liberality of Mr. Ainsworth in providing funds for the erection of schools and churches for his workpeople and in bestowing charity to those in need, *Packer* 6636. 6677, 6678. 6722——He has spent about 15,000 *l.* in building two churches, and 3,000 *l.* in building three schools, *ib.* 6678.

4. *Quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and the late Incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell:*

Particulars relative to some quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and witness, in the first instance about the demeanour of the former in church, and subsequently on account of witness's remonstrances, privately and in his sermons, against the overwork; and also on account of Mr. Ainsworth wishing to interfere in the mode of conduct of Divine Service, *Milton* 1423, 1424. 1468–1476. 1484, 1485. 1511–1517. 1537–1562. 1569–1589——Severe measures adopted by Mr. Ainsworth towards witness in consequence of the quarrel between them, *ib.* 1424——On leaving Halliwell, witness went to a church in Derbyshire; he left this on the score of health, and not because of a quarrel with the patron, *ib.* 1477–1483——Explanation as to witness having written to the newspapers with reference to the overwork question and his quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth, *ib.* 1537–1562.

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

AINSWORTH, MR. (*HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS*—continued.)

5. *Views of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Effect of Regular Hours upon the Completion of Orders:*

Statement showing that Mr. Ainsworth does not attribute much importance to the foreign orders of the merchants in regard to the time taken in executing them, *Crook* 2471.

6. *Other Evidence of a general nature:*

Very bad moral effects consequent upon the system of overwork, the young men and women sometimes lying down together when resting from work, *Milton* 1411, 1412—— Doubt whether the bleachers ever left Mr. Ainsworth's to work in the neighbouring cotton mills, *ib.* 1497-1501.

Long periods for which the people remain in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, *Morris* 6340, 6341——Inaccuarcy of Mr. Milton's statement, as to the young men and women lying down to rest in the same room, *ib.* 6416, 6417.

Part of Mr. John Ainsworth's works are in witness's parish, the population of which comprises about an equal number of bleachers and of factory hands, *Packer* 6630-6635 ——Morality of the bleachers; evidence hereon opposed to statements by Mr. Milton, *ib.* 6653-6655. 6664, 6665. 6679-6682. 6719 ——Suitable character of the rooms at Mr. Ainsworth's works; witness never heard of the boys and girls resting and lying down together in the same room, *ib.* 6666-6674——Witness, who succeeded Mr. Milton at St. Paul's, was suggested to the bishop by Mr. Ainsworth, *ib.* 6692-6697——Since hearing of the Bleaching Bill witness has not had any direct discussion upon its merits with Mr. Ainsworth or others. *ib.* 6698-6718.

See also *Age of Employment*, 1. *Greenhalgh, Sisters.* *Health*, 1. 3. *Truck System.* *Wages.*

Allcock, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher and finisher of cotton and merino hosiery, near Nottingham, 5299, 5300——Employs about seventy workpeople; number and ages of the females and boys, 5301-5303——The regular hours of labour are from six to seven in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being occasionally overtime to the extent of not more than two hours, 5304-5307. 5338, 5339—— Steam machinery is worked only by the adult men, 5308-5311——The temperature of the rooms is at a comfortable heat, 5312.

Objection to the Bill before the Committee as likely to interfere with the interests of the workpeople, by lessening on the whole their average hours of labour, and their average earnings, 5313-5315——Undue interference of the Bill with the masters, as under it they must in pressing times either do less work or enlarge their premises and employ considerably more hands, the latter being difficult to procure, 5316-5320. 5340-5348.

Witness was one of the masters who entered into the voluntary arrangement proposed by the men in regard to overtime and prices; he still abides by it, 5317-5322. 5332-5335——Equally healthy employment in the bleach-works as on farms, 5323-5328—— Much better wages in the bleach-works than on farms, 5329-5331 5336-5339.

B.

Bancroft, Siffrid Nevil. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon at Bolton; in practice there thirty-one years, 6740-6743——The deaths of two of the Greenhalgh family, who worked for Mr. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, were in no way expedited by work; cause of their death, 6744-6749. 6761-6766——Employment in bleaching is very healthy, much more so than employment in cotton-spinning, 6750-6758. 6767-6785——Factory employment is very unhealthy; causes thereof, 6752-6758. 6767-6782——A person could work fourteen hours a day in bleach-works with less injury than ten hours and a half in a cotton mill, 6757. 6781-6785—— Restriction upon the hours in bleach-works is not necessary, 6758, 6759.

Barbour, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Commission merchant at Manchester, 1954——Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 1955——Grounds upon which witness stated to Mr. Tremenheere that "he did not think the merchants as a body would be affected by, or would raise any objection to legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleaching-works," 1956 *et seq.*

Greater facilities at present than some years ago for exporting goods for foreign orders, 1956. 1959, 1960——Tendency of a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach-works to induce merchants to give out orders to the bleach-master more promptly than they now do, 1956, 1957. 1968, 1969. 1987. 2019-2028——Difficulties in the way of merchants giving out their orders more promptly than they have hitherto done, 1958. 1962-1964. 2013-2028.

Strong objection to any law which should compel the merchant to keep in store a certain quantity of goods, or to give so many days' notice to the bleacher whenever

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Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Barbour, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

an order was to be executed, 1964. 2029–2033. 2125–2128——Expediency of applying legislative restrictions upon trade in cases of crying evils only, and with great caution 1965, 1996. 2073–2079. 2095–2099. 2128. 2134, 2135——Approval of legislative interference in the case of boys and young females in bleach-works, 1965–1967. 2135–2153——Recommended restriction upon the age at which children are employed, with a view to their education, 1965–1967. 2135–2153.

Particulars as to the packing, &c., carried on in witness's establishment, and in the establishments of other merchants at Manchester; inexpediency of legislative interference with the hours of labour in these departments, the employment differing very much from the employment in bleach-works, 1970–1983. 1986. 2037–2054. 2092–2099——Tendency of feeling both of employers and employed to shorten the hours of labour, 1983–1985. 2068. 2100–2106——Considerable curtailment of the hours of labour in Manchester, 1985. 2100–2106.

To a considerable extent the bleacher is the servant of the merchant, and cannot help himself in regard to the long hours of labour, 1987–1994. 2001–2004. 2013–2017. 2034–2036. 2065, 2066. 2107–2124——Injury to the goods if hastily finished or packed improperly; doubt whether this would be rendered worse by a restriction upon the hours of labour, 1987. 1997–2000. 2005–2013. 2018–2025——In the event of restriction the bleacher must either extend his machinery and works, or decline to take more orders than he can execute in the given time, 1995, 1996. 2013–2015. 2018, 2019. 2028. 2032. 2108. 2126——Obstacle to the bleacher holding a quantity of stock of bleached goods in hand, 1997–2000. 2080–2082.

Difficulty at present in calculating how long it may take the bleacher to execute orders given by the merchant, 2013–2017. 2029. 2057–2064. 2080, 2081. 2127——The question of long or short hours does not operate upon the merchant in giving his orders, 2020–2028. 2107–2113. 2118, 2119——The merchant would soon accomodate himself to the restrictions upon the bleacher, and neither party would be much inconvenienced, 2026–2028. 2114–2117——At one time the bleachers used to be held liable to penalties for delay in the execution of orders, 2034, 2035——Shortening of the labour in the packing department of bleach-works if restrictions be placed on the other departments, 2054–2056.

If the hours of labour were regulated the merchant would have a clearer knowledge of the capabilities of the bleacher 2057–2064——Tendency of competition in trade to lead to long hours unless there be a legal restriction, 2065–2067——Question as to the ability of the workpeople by means of combinations to bring about a permanent shortening of the hours of labour, 2067–2072. 2083–2091——The work of bleachers is more steady than it used to be, but there will always be pushes in the trade, 2120–2124.

Distinction between linen-bleaching in Ireland and cotton-bleaching in England; in Ireland stocks of goods are kept, but overwork is also necessary, 2129–2134——Expediency of legislative interference with Irish bleach-works if young females and boys are employed there for long hours, 2134, 2135——Interference with the labour of grown-up men and women is very questionable policy, 2135.

Barbour, Mr. Witness concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Barbour, *Scott* 2163, 2164. 2263, 2264.

Beetling Process. Probable employment of adults only on the beetling engines in Ireland as in England, *J. Waring* 445, 446——Very long hours in Mr. Hardcastle's beetling department; witness has worked there for thirty-six hours at a time, resting only for meals, *Miller* 1221. 1233–1236——Explanation of the beetling process as at Mr. Hardcastle's; the labour is almost continuous, *ib.* 1287–1292——Fault of the witness, Thomas Miller, if, for the greed of gain, he worked for thirty-six hours continuously in witness's beetling-rooms, *Hardcastle* 5786——Belief that there are no women in witness's beetling department, *ib.* 5788, 5789.

Frequent instances of late hours in the case of the beetlers in Scotland, whose work however is not heavy or unhealthy, *Boase* 3647. 3668–3675. 3683–3698. 3705. 3710–3725——Correctness of the statements made to Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Forbes and Mr. Turnbull, in regard to the occasionally long hours of beetlers in Scotland, *ib.* 3668–3675——Long hours at the beetling process in Perthshire as well as elsewhere, *ib.* 3683–3687——There are probably not more than seventy or eighty women employed at the beetling process in Scotland, *ib.* 3701–3703——Nature of the work performed by the persons attendant on the beetling engines, *ib.* 3714–3722.

No women, and very few boys, are employed by witness's firm at the beetling engines, *Richardson* 3827——Beetling is the last process applied to linen goods; it is severe work, but there are long intervals of rest, *O'Brien* 4051–4056——Practice as to the employment of boys to attend to the beetling engines at Keady; the work is light and healthy, *Leeper* 4268–4275. 4285, 4286——Employment of machinery instead of boys for turning the beetling frames at Messrs. Charley's, at Seymour Hill, *Henchy* 4479–4482.

Beetling Process—continued.

Hours of labour at witness's beetling mills; there are two sets of men and boys, who work alternately day and night, *Kirk* 4551. 4563, 4564——Explanation of the beetling process, as carried on by machinery, at witness's works, *ib.* 4551–4553——Moderate heat in witness's beetling department, *ib.* 4587.

Remarks in confirmation of the evidence given before witness, by Mr. Daniel Forbes, as to operatives in the beetling rooms in Scotland falling down and going to sleep, *Tremenheere* 4722.

See also *Hours of Labour.* *Legislative Interference.*

Belgium. Illustration of the progress being made in Belgium in the bleaching of cotton goods, *Hardcastle* 5665, 5666. 5690–5692—— Frequent instances of operative bleachers leaving this country for employment in Belgium, *ib.* 5666, 5667. 5690–5692.

Encouragement given by the Belgian Government to the extension of bleach-works, *M'Adam* 6919——Explanation as to the advantages of the Belgian manufacturer over the Irish manufacturer, and the considerable extent to which the former is superseding the latter in the supply of linen to other countries, *ib.* 6938–6946. 6950. 6976–6983. 7114–7119——Remarks on the higher duty paid on Irish linens than on Belgium linens in going into France, *ib.* 6939–6943. 6976–6983——Large use made in Belgium of Irish improvements in machinery, *ib.* 6945, 6946——In Belgium the bleachers work for long or short time in accordance with the amount of business on hand, *ib.* 6950. 6958, 6959.

See alse *Foreign Competition.*

Bell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Belfast; is concerned in the linen and diaper trade, and is also a flax-spinner, 4331–4335——Mode of ventilation used in flax mills in Ireland; the windows are very rarely made to move up and down, 4336, 4337. 4383, 4384——The great bulk of the flax-spinning in Ireland is wet spinning, 4338–4340——Necessity of the ventilation being from the top of the rooms where wet spinning is carried on, 4341, 4342.

Evidence relative to the lapping-rooms, to the effect that restriction upon the hours of labour is not necessary on the score of health, and would be extremely inconvenient to the trade, 4343–4375——Hours of employment in the lapping-rooms of witness's firm; there is no grievance to be redressed 4353–4356. 4361–4375——Objection to a Government inspection of the lapping-rooms, 4357——Proportion of women and children employed in the lapping-rooms; there is no complaint, 4358, 4359, 4363.

The work in the lapping-rooms is very light, 4360. 4363——Under the Factory Bill as many hours' labour might be obtained weekly by witness's firm as is now the case, but there is no necessity for legislation, 4366–4375——Employment of from 150 to 200 women and children by witness's firm in flax-spinning, 4376, 4377——The process requiring the thread to pass through hot water is carried on in only one room, there being two preparation rooms, 4378–4382.

Betts, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher at Mr. Tebbet's, Old Baisford, 2915–2918——Commenced work when ten or eleven years old, 2919–2921——Extremely long hours of labour in the trade when witness entered it thirty-two years ago, 2922–2929——Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health of the females and boys, 2927——The hours at Mr. Tebbet's are now from six to six in summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being rarely any overtime, 2930, 2931. 2971–2976——Mr. Tebbet is one of the few masters who has abided by an agreement entered into some few years ago for shortening the hours of labour, 2931–2933——Very long hours still adopted by most of the bleachers at Old Baisford, 2934–2939.

General feeling of the operative bleachers in Nottingham in favour of regular hours, that is, from six to six, with two hours for meals, and no overtime, 2944–2948. 2955–2959. 2962–2967. 2976–2999——Instances of people leaving establishments where the hours were too long, 2949–2953——Willingness of Mr. Tebbet that witness should attend the Committee, 2954——Difficulty in men obtaining employment when they leave any place through the long hours, 2960, 2961——Probability of lower earnings if there be no overtime; willingness of the operatives to make this sacrifice, 2978–2999.

Blackland Mill, Paisley. Witness had for ten years exclusive medical charge of Blackland Mill, one of the largest bleaching establishments in the neighbourhood of Paisley, belonging to Messrs. Edward Hamilton and Son, *Richmond* 3157–3161——There were about 300 women and boys employed at this mill, *ib.* 3159, 3160. 3213–3216——They were exposed to four different evils as regards the effect of their occupation upon their health, *ib.* 3162 *et seq.*

Injury to the health of the women and young females in Blackland Mill in their being constantly employed standing; varicose veins are one result of this evil, *Richmond* 3162. 3173. 3194. 3299. 3314–3317——Injury to the health in consequence of the great artificial heat of some of the rooms; particulars hereon, *ib.* 3162, 3163. 3173. 3193. 3196–3216. 3271–3275. 3299, 3300——Injury to health in consequence of the sudden transition from heat to cold, that is, from the heated rooms to the open air, *ib.* 3164. 3173. 3299——

Injury

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Blackland Mill, Paisley—continued.

Injury to health in consequence of the long hours of labour; particulars on this point, *Richmond* 3164-3166. 3173-3176. 3195. 3271-3275. 3299. 3300——Though witness has not preserved any statistics relative to Blackland Mill and the health of the operatives, he can vouch for the bad effect generally of the work upon the health, *ib.* 3177. 3291-3300.

Small number of children under twelve years of age at Blackland Mill, *Richmond* 3217-3224——Necessity of the children working, *ib.* 3220-3225——Witness resigned his appointment at Blackland Mill, but has no objection to the character of the employment, *ib.* 3306-3309.

See also *Women's Houses.*

Blair, Stephen. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Partner in the firm of Blair & Sumner, bleachers and finishers at Bolton; has been engaged in the trade since 1819; 5806-5808——Employs 127 hands, of whom only nine are under thirteen years of age, 5809-5811——Increased introduction of machinery by witness of late years, and effect thereof in rendering the hours of labour shorter and more regular, and in displacing manual labour, 5812-5818. 5823, 5824. 5838. 5858——Tendency of legislation to increase the use of machinery, and thereby to displace manual labour, 5815, 5816.

Extent of variation in the work done and the hours of labour at witness's establishment at different periods; paper delivered in (*App. p.* 179) containing particulars hereon, 5819-5838——Means of recreation during the intervals in the work, 5831. 5856——Industry of the females during the intervals between the work 5831. 5856, 5857——Objection of witness to employ girls under eleven years of age, 5839, 5840——Neglect of the children's education by their parents, 5840. 5863.

There is a stove in witness's works, but the women are not employed in it; when the others are in it the heat is not great, 5841, 5842——Good health of witness's workpeople, 5843, 5844——Healthful character generally of employment in bleaching, 5845——Good ventilation and moderate temperature of the rooms where the young persons are employed, 5846——The longer hours of witness's people than of the factory operatives are an attraction to the latter, 5847.

Explanation as to some of the girls in witness's employment having complained to Mr. Tremenheere of sore feet; this was through wearing clogs, which have since been abolished, 5848——Facility given by witness to Mr. Tremenheere in his visit to the works, 5849——His visit was made without the previous knowledge of witness, but the men were evidently aware of his coming, 5849. 5853, 5854——Exception taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere reported the evidence of a boy named Thomas Spencer, 5849-5852.

Statement of the several processes in bleaching and finishing, showing that the labour is not continuous, 5858——The labour not being continuous is a strong argument against legislation, 5858-5860——Out of 127 persons employed by witness, only thirteen can neither read nor write, 5861, 5862——Local opportunities for the education of the children, 5863——The pushes in the trade are in consequence of pressure from the merchants, 5864——Increased foreign competition if the proposed restrictions are enacted, *ib.*——Explanation by Mr. Cross of a statement by John Waring that he (Mr. Cross) worked on Sundays, 5865, 5866——Inaccuracy of the evidence of Mr. Robinson as to grass-bleaching having been the practice at Bolton when he first came there thirty-four years ago, 5867, 5868.

[Second Examination.]—Further statement as to bleaching in the open air having been given up at Bolton before Mr. Robinson settled there, 6024-6028——Necessity of bleaching linen on grass instead of by means of drugs, 6026-6028——Explanation of a statement by Henry Waring as to there being no difficulty about leaving certain processes suspended at the Christmas and Whitsuntide holidays; this cannot be done without special preparation, 6029, 6030——Witness's people have never been dismissed for refusing to work long hours, 6033——The men are always very willing to work extra time, 6033. 6051. 6053——During the last twelve months the earnings of the men have averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* a day, and of the women 1*s.* 10*d.* a day, 6033.

Explanation as to the quittance papers given to the men on dismissal, 6034, 6035——When grass-bleaching was in practice at Bolton the hours were probably more regular 6036——The employment formerly of children so young as nine or ten does not apply now, machinery tending to displace such labour altogether, 6037——Large displacement of adult labour by machinery in witness's works, 6038——Explanation as to machinery having displaced such labour as that of John Waring, 6039.

Further statement as to the existence of schools, and the opportunities for education at Bolton, and in the neighbourhood, 6040, 6041——Witness does not now employ any person who cannot read and write, 6041——Impracticability of the bleachers or merchants distributing the work equally throughout the year, 6042-6044. 6065, 6066. 6073. 6135. 6140-6142——Impropriety of applying the proposed restrictions to bleaching, including calendering and making-up, without at the same time applying them to warehouses in Manchester where calendering and making-up are done, 6045-6050. 6146-6170——Shorter hours in witness's calendering department through speeding the machinery, 6045. 6193-6195.

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Blair, Stephen. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Opportunities for the employment of men who are opposed to overtime, 6051–6053 ——Preference given by operatives to employment in bleach-works as compared with cotton factories, 6053. 6177–6179——Further statement as to the system and amount of wages in witness's works, 6054–6059. 6075–6096——Healthy condition and appearance of operative bleachers further adverted to, 6060–6062. 6113–6115——The operatives are by no means unanimous in favour of legislation, 6063——The master bleachers are generally opposed to interference, 6064.

Further apprehension of an injurious increase of foreign competition if the proposed restrictions be adopted, 6065, 6066. 6142. 6197, 6198——Statement delivered in (*App. p.* 180, 181), containing particulars as to the labour, hours of employment, &c. of the men, women, boys, and girls at witness's works, 6067, 6068——The children are employed chiefly at the desire of the parents, 6069, 6070——Measures being adopted by witness for superseding, by machinery, the employment of children, 6069. 6129.

Distinction between the objections to the Factory Act and the objections to the proposed Bill, 6072–6074——Tendency of improved machinery to substitute the labour of boys for adult labour, 6097–6100——Examination relative to evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by some of the young females in witness's employment as to their hours of labour in 1854 and 1855; witness is not prepared to deny that they may occasionally have worked "from five in the morning till eight or nine at night," or "from twelve at night till eight or nine the following evening," 6101–6129.

Successful efforts made by witness since, and in consequence of, Mr. Tremenheere's visit to reduce and render more regular the hours of labour in his establishment, 6120, 6121. 6126. 6129. 6156–6168. 6191, 6192——Further statement as to the continuous character of the processes in bleaching, &c.; practicability, however, of stopping work at any time (as well as on Sunday) if there were no pressure on the part of the merchant, 6130–6143——In the bleaching process witness employs only seventeen boys and two men, 6144——The manager in each room fixes the hour for commencing work in the morning, 6145.

Comparative worthlessness of the Bill, inasmuch as the restrictions upon calendering, &c., when in connexion with bleach-works, would be evaded by the carrying on of such business in separate buildings, and the restrictions upon bleaching would be met by the increased introduction of machinery, and the displacement of the labour of boys and females, 6146–6190——Belief that the masters generally, as well as witness, are opposed to over-working boys, and will, without any legislative restriction, take steps for abridging the hours, 6156–6168.

Witness's main objection to the Bill is that it interferes to regulate hours, which are necessarily irregular, 6196–6198. 6227——The work has, of late years, been done in more regular hours, and the merchants have not been put to inconvenience, 6199–6203 ——Witness further contends that, under a ten hours' system, it would be impracticable for the merchant as well as for the bleacher to conduct trade without injury and loss of business, 6203–6228——Exception taken to the evidence of Mr. Barbour, in regard to the power of the merchants to distribute their orders regularly, 6204–6208.

Interference with adult labour, if the labour of the women and children be restricted, 6228——Further statement that witness's stove is never hot when the people are in it; there are no women in it at all, 6229–6234——Liberty, generally, of witness's people to leave his employment without notice being insisted on, though, nominally, a fortnight's notice is required on either side, 6236.

[Third Examination.] Paper delivered in (*App. p.* 182, 183), containing details of each day's work at witness's establishment from the 18th November 1854 to the 18th January 1855; average of 8½ hours a day, 6475, 6476.

Boase, Henry Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Managing partner of the Claverhouse Bleaching Field, near Dundee, 3617–3620——Concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Drimminie, 3621——Healthy, happy, and contented state of the operative bleachers under witness, and throughout the west of Scotland, 3622–3627. 3639–3646. 3653. 3681, 3682. 3723–3725——Dissent from the conclusions arrived at in the report of Mr. Tremenheere, relative to Scotland, 3628–3633. 3654–3674——The report gives only a general idea; it should have investigated more minutely, 3629, 3630.

Understanding in the Claverhouse works that there is to be no excessive overtime, 3633. 3684——Necessity occasionally of overtime, on account of unfavourable weather, and other causes, 3634–3636. 3687–3700——Tendency of legislative restrictions to drive the cotton population of the bleaching fields into towns, 3637, 3638——Good health of the women and children as well as of the men, 3641–3645. 3706–3708——Considerable improvement in regard to overtime in the Scotch bleach-fields within the last twenty years; oppressively long hours when witness first went to Scotland nineteen years ago, 3647. 3726–3751.

Improvement

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Boase, Henry Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Improvement going on in regard to the hours of labour on account of the better feeling and understanding between master and man, 3648, 3649. 3752-3754——Frequent instances of late hours in the case of the beetlers, whose work however is not heavy or unhealthy, 3647. 3668-3675. 3683-3698. 3705. 3710-3725——Check to undue overtime in the greater independence of the operatives of late years, 3648. 3704——Rare instances of employing children under the age of thirteen in witness's works, 3650, 3651——Educated state of the children when they begin to work, 3652.

Unreliable character of portion of the evidence given before Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Daniel Forbes, of Cairnfield, near Perth, 3654-3669——Correctness of statements by Mr. Forbes and Mr. Turnbull in regard to the occasionally long hours of beetlers, 3668-3675——In the stoves in witness's establishment men only are employed, 3677. 3680——Recent erection by witness of a patent stove, whereby the men are exempt from feeling the heat at so high a temperature, 3677-3679. 3707——Long hours at the beetling process in Perthshire, as well as elsewhere, 3683-3687——Accommodation provided when the men and women work all night at beetling; occasional immorality, 3688-3697.

At the Claverhouse works the hours average about sixty a week, 3699——There are probably not more than seventy or eighty women employed at the beetling process in Scotland, 3701-3703——Doubt whether continuous employment of women in the stoves is very unhealthy, 3707-3709——Nature of the work performed by the persons attendant on the beetling engines, 3714-3722——Payment of wages in witness's establishment by the piece and by the day; earnings under each system, 3755.

Bolton. See *Age of Employment. Ainsworth, Mr. Commission of Inquiry. Education. Employment. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Masters. Operatives. Slater, John. Wages.*

Bowley, Albert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher, in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, of Nottingham, 2611-2615——From fifty to sixty persons are employed, of whom about a dozen are females under the age of eighteen; there are scarcely any boys, 2616-2618. 2661-2664——Extremely long hours of labour, occasionally, of these females, as well as of the other operatives, 2619-2629——Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health of the females, 2629, 2630. 2642-2645——During the last twelve months the hours have not been so long, 2631-2633.

Unwillingness of the masters to reduce the hours unless, as a body, they be compelled to do so, 2633, 2634——General feeling of the Nottingham operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours, 2635. 2659——Witness does not know the nature of Mr. Tremenheere's report in regard to Nottingham; he was not aware of his visit to that town, 2636, 2637. 2658-2660——In the finishing department of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison rollers are used, 2638, 2639.

The heat in the rooms where the young females work varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and is very injurious to health, 2640-2645——Uneducated state of the young females in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison; this is mainly the fault of the parents, 2647-2652. 2666-2669. 2764-2766. 2772. 2779——Inability of the workpeople to attend places of worship on Sunday on account of over-fatigue, 2653-2657. 2716. 2774, 2775——Wages of the young females; irrespective of overtime, they get about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, 2670-2677. 2700-2715——Nine hours and a half, that is, from eight till seven o'clock, less time for meals, constitute a day's work, 2678-2686.

Witness's wages are 3*s.* a day, or, if he work from eight in the morning till twelve at night, 5*s.* 2*d.*; 2687-2690. 2700——It is compulsory on the workpeople to work long hours, otherwise they would be discharged, and might remain out of work, 2690-2695. 2717-2746——Witness has been threatened by Mr. Harrison with dismissal unless he worked the required time, 2725-2743——The wages of the men at Nottingham vary very much according to their capabilities for work, 2747-2752——Further statement as to the earnings of the young females, 2753-2763——In many instances the masters require the parents to send their children to the works, 2763. 2767-2771——There is generally pretty full work at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's throughout the year, 2776-2778.

Bowley, Albert. Character of the witness Bowley adverted to; denial of the accuracy of some of his statements with reference to witness's works, *Harrison* 4952 *et seq.*

Bradford Chamber of Commerce. Witness represents the feelings not only of the Bradford dye trade, but also of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, by whom he has been deputed to attend the Committee, in opposition to the proposal for legislative interference, *Ripley* 6020.

Bradford Dye Trade. Statement of the total number of hands employed in the principal dye-houses in the Bradford stuff trade; total of 3,174 males above eighteen, of 683 males under eighteen, and of 117 females, *Ripley* 5881-5883——Circumstance of Mr. Butt having promised to exclude the stuff dyers from the operation of the Bill, *ib.* 6023.

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Breakage of Machinery. In the case of cotton works witness suggests that there be some provision for making up time lost by the breakage of machinery, *Tremenheere* 4935. 4949.

Brownbill, Thomas Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon at Salford; is medical inspector of the Salford Union Workhouse, and has had considerable experience in regard to operatives in dye-works, &c., 3000–3003. 3033. 3059–3063——Decidedly injurious effect of the long hours of labour, and the high degrees of heat in dye-works, upon the health and physical condition of the females and young persons employed therein, 3004 *et seq.*——The hours vary from twelve to eighteen daily in the case of young persons in the dye-works at Salford, 3008–3010——An average of ten or ten hours and a half daily is quite enough for persons under eighteen years of age, 3011. 3064–3066.

About two years ago witness and all the medical men in Salford signed a petition, praying for legislative interference with the hours of labour in dye-works, &c., 3014—— Witness is still an advocate for legislative interference with the hours of labour of young persons in bleaching and dyeing works, and in other works involving unhealthy confinement, 3015–3017. 3037, 3038. 3058–3074——Frequent instances of bad health in the case of factory children, 3018–3026——Few females engaged in the dye-works at Salford 3027——Considerable number of boys in these works; their ages, 3027, 3028. 3039.

Improvement in the health and physical condition of the factory operatives since the Ten Hours Act, 3029–3033. 3051–3057—— Instances of factory operatives disabled from work by the system formerly pursued, 3031. 3046–3049——Girls engaged in dye-works do not wish for employment in factories, but sometimes leave to work in silk-mills, 3040 ——More healthy character of the employment in dye-works than in factories, 3041–3045. 3050——In bleaching and dyeing works children should not work under twelve or thirteen years of age, 3068——Parents are frequently blameable for the overwork of their children, 3075–3077.

Burton James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in business about fifty-five years as calico printer, cotton spinner and bleacher, &c., 7254–7259——Healthy and cleanly character of employment in bleaching and dyeing, 7260. 7270——Less opportunity formerly than at present for the education of the operatives, 7261——Witness objects to legislative restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach and dye-works, as interfering with the completion of orders, which are constantly required to be executed by a given time, 7262–7289.

Belief that restriction would injure the employed as well as the employers, 7264 —— Objection to interference with the hours in the Manchester packing-up warehouses, 7271, 7272—— Strong objection to the system of inspection under the Factory Act; general dissatisfaction of masters on the subject, 7289–7305.

Burton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gasser, bleacher, and trimmer, near Nottingham, 5150, 5151——Employs 126 men, 115 women, and 119 young persons, 5152–5154 ——The ages of the young persons vary from nine to seventeen, 5155, 5156——The ordinary hours of labour of the men are from six to six, and of the women from seven to seven, two hours being allowed for meals, 5157–5160——The hours of the adults sometimes are extended till nine in the evening, and are paid for as overhours, 5161–5167——Nature of the gassing business, 5168——The temperature in the rooms is about 70°; 5170——Machinery is employed in bleaching, but not for the trimming or finishing, 5170.

Explanation relative to the arrangement about the hours of ordinary labour and about overhours and prices which were in operation between witness's firm and their men, and between several other masters and their men, at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's inquiry, 5173 *et seq.*——The present practice as regards hours of labour at witness's establishment may be considered similar to that in force during Mr. Tremenheere's visit, 5175–5178. 5190. 5206, 5207——Absence of difficulty to witness's firm and others, in carrying on their business under the arrangement limiting the hours, including overtime, from six to eight or nine, 5179–5189. 5225–5230. 5246–5248.

Impression as to some establishments at Nottingham occasionally continuing work up to eleven or twelve at night, 5190–5194. 5208——Number of children in witness's employment who are only nine or ten years of age; earliest age at which taken, 5195–5197. 5284–5288——The hours of the younger children are generally limited to six in the evening, witness objecting to their working for a longer time than ten hours, 5198–5203. 5249–5251. 5289–5294——The parents are anxious for their children's employment, and do not complain of their being hardly worked, 5204, 5205. 5215, 5216——There have been one or two instances of adults leaving witness's employment on account of the restriction upon the overhours, 5209–5211. 5245.

The employment of the boys is very much in the nature of mere domestic work, 5212 ——The proposed Bill would seriously interfere with the masters in time of pressure, as they would require enlarged premises, and a greater number of workpeople, whom they might

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Burton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

might not be able to maintain, 5217 *et seq.*——Voluntary character of the former arrangement between some of the masters and their men as to overtime and prices; difficulty in the adoption generally of any voluntary system, 5233–5240. 5244. 5246, 5247. 5267–5273——Belief that it would be better, for both masters and men, if, including overtime, the hours could, by arrangement, be limited to from six to nine, 5242, 5243.

Demand at present for women's labour at Nottingham, 5258, 5259. 5274, 5275——The work of the women at witness's establishment is not laborious, 5264–5266——Objection of the women to be obliged to leave off work at six in the evening, 5276–5278——Partial interference with the labour of the adults if the labour of the boys and girls be limited to ten hours daily, 5279–5283. 5289–5297——Light work on which the younger children are employed, 5284–5286——Healthful character of employment in the bleaching of cotton, hosiery, and lace, 5297, 5298.

Burton, Mr. (*Old Baisford*). Very long hours of labour at Mr. Burton's establishment, near Nottingham, for some few years after witness joined it, about ten years ago, *Shelbourne* 2801–2808——Mr. Burton never allows his people to work after nine at night, *ib.* 2814——Employment of very young boys, as well as adults, in the bleaching department; hours of labour of these boys, *ib.* 2819–2828. 2836–2846——Strong opinion expressed by Mr. Burton against the hours of labour in other establishments, *ib.* 2829.

Mr. Burton employs about 400 people, several of whom are females, *Shelbourne* 2830–2832——When a pressure comes, all the departments, and the young as well as the adults, work for very long hours, *ib.* 2833–2835. 2891–2893——Ordinary hours at Mr. Burton's, *ib.* 2838–2841. 2897–2907——Light work on which the young boys are engaged, *ib.* 2842–2846——Statement as to Mr. Tremenheere having visited Mr. Burton's establishment, and having been told that the extreme hours were from six till nine, *ib.* 2847–2860.

C.

Calendering. See *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Warehouses.*

Charley, John and William. The ordinary hours of labour at Messrs. Charley's, of Seymour Hill, are from six in the morning to six in the evening, two hours being allowed for meals, *Henchy* 4455–4457——Employment of some women at the works, *ib.* 4498–4501——There are six boys in the lapping-rooms and ten in the bleach-works, *ib.* 4502, 4503——Way in which the Bill would injuriously affect the time of labour of young persons at Messrs. Charley's, &c., *ib.* 4507–4533——As regards the employment of women in the stoves, witness has never heard any complaint, *ib.* 4534–4540.

Charlton, Robert & Sons. Statement, as prepared by Thomas Bracken, a maker-up in the establishment of Messrs. Robert Charlton & Sons, of Manchester, relative to the overtime in that establishment; explanation as to this statement; its accuracy, *Fletcher* 1720–1729. 1739–1750. 1778–1789.

Children. See *Adult Labour. Age of Employment. Commission of Inquiry. Education. Employment. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Operatives. Wages.*

Clamping Rooms. Explanation relative to the process in the clamping-rooms; the objection which existed against the high temperature has been obviated by new inventions and improvements, *Hardcastle* 5502–5510. 5805——The clamping frames at Halliwell are worked exclusively by adult males, *Morris* 6385, 6386.

Claverhouse Bleaching Field, Dundee. Witness is managing partner of the Claverhouse bleaching field, near Dundee, *Boase* 3617–3620——Understanding in the Claverhouse works that there is to be no excessive overtime, *ib.* 3633. 3684——Necessity occasionally of overtime, on account of unfavourable weather and other causes, *ib.* 3634–3636. 3687–3700——Rare instance of employing children under the age of thirteen in witness's works, *ib.* 3650, 3651——The hours average about sixty a week, *ib.* 3699——Payment of wages by the piece and by the day; earnings under each system, *ib.* 3755.

Collieries Inspection Act. The Act for the inspection of coal mines has done harm rather than good, *Hardcastle* 5607–5610——Evidence relative to and in approval of Salter's improved spring balance as a steam-gauge, to which steam-gauge one of the colliery inspectors objected as improper, *ib.* 5610–5612. 5693–5711.

Commission Agents. See *Merchants and Commission Agents.*

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Commission of Inquiry:

1. *General Explanation by the Commissioner as to his conduct of the Inquiry.*
2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry; Exceptions taken to the Report.*

1. *General Explanation by the Commissioner as to his conduct of the Inquiry:*

Witness was appointed, in 1854, as Commissioner to examine and report upon the bleaching and dyeing works in the United Kingdom, *Tremenheere* 1. 15——Completed his inquiries about the end of March 1855, and reported on 7th June 1855, since which time he has not paid any further attention to the subject, *ib.* 2-12——Particulars as to the mode in which witness conducted his inquiries; sufficiency of the data for the conclusions and recommendations in his report, *ib.* 13 *et seq.*

Witness visited several bleach-works; in some of them he did not stay more than a few hours, *Tremenheere* 13-20——He took evidence from a considerable number of workpeople, and had such evidence confirmed by reading it over to the person in charge of each establishment at the time, *ib.* 19-24——He commenced his inquiry by taking evidence from a committee of operatives who had been promoting the movement, *ib.* 33, 34. 42-47. 141, 142——He subsequently had frequent communication with Mr. Ainsworth, and other masters, *ib.* 34, 35——He visited altogether twenty-seven establishments in Lancashire and Cheshire; names of some of these, *ib.* 35. 37. 79, 80——He examined several of the masters, *ib.* 36. 38.

Exception taken to a statement by Dr. Boase (*Q.* 3629. 3630), that as regards the east of Scotland, witness's report only gave a general idea of the state of things, and did not go sufficiently into particulars, *Tremenheere* 4720-4722——As regards the non-examination by witness of any operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he considered that his investigations in Lancashire and the west coast of Scotland already established a case for legislation with regard to boys and females, *ib.* 4723-4761.

Explanation as to witness, before entering upon his inquiries, not having considered it necessary either to frame any formal set of questions, or to include in his report the actual questions put, as well as the evidence in reply, *Tremenheere* 4762-4766. 4773-4775. 4795, 4796——Explanation as to witness having in questioning Mr. Alexander Hunter, of Dunmurry, led him to infer that there was to be an Act for England and Scotland, *ib.* 4766-4772——Way in which witness took down the evidence of the masters and the men; opportunity given them to correct or object to any statement which he had recorded, *ib.* 4773-4775. 4791-4793. 4850-4852.

For the same reason that witness did not consider it necessary to examine the operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he did not deem it essential to examine the operatives in Ireland *Tremenheere* 4776-4781——As regards the way in which witness reported his conversation with Mr. Alexander Hunter, no complaint has been made by Mr. Hunter on the subject, *ib.* 4791-4794——The only objection made by any person of witness's version of his evidence, was an objection of a friendly nature, by Dr. Boase, *ib.* 4794——Reference to a discrepancy in witness's remarks upon the evidence of Mr. Richardson, as to dispensing with overtime in the case of females, *ib.* 4797.

Before witness attended the operatives' committee in Lancashire he had some slight communication with one or two of the masters, *Tremenheere* 4798——With two or three exceptions, the operatives' delegates in communication with witness were at the time employed in bleach-works, *ib.* 4799.

Statement as to witness having visited ten establishments not on the list given him by Mr. Ainsworth on the part of the masters; the evidence obtained thereat was in contradiction of that supplied by the masters, *Tremenheere* 4804-4807——Every facility in visiting the works was afforded by the masters, *ib.* 4808——Witness had frequent communication with the delegates between his visits to the bleach-works, *ib.* 4809-4811.

Explanation as to the evidence of Mr. John Pender, relative to his warehouse, not having been read over to him, *Tremenheere* 4853——Before entering on the inquiry, witness knew nothing about the bleaching population, and was not aware of the system of excessive overtime, *ib.* 4865-4867——Before inquiring as to the means of remedy, witness considered it his duty first to inquire into the existence and nature of the evil, *ib.* 4868, 4869.

2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry; Exceptions taken to the Report:*

Explanation as to the mode in which witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, *J. Waring* 480-487——Impartiality of the proceedings of Mr. Tremenheere, *ib.* 487, 488——According to Mr. Tremenheere's desire the Bolton operatives furnished him with a list of bleach-works in the neighbourhood; in doing so they said nothing about Ireland, *ib.* 489-497——Witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, which evidence is equally applicable to the present state of things, *H. Waring* 888-891.

Mr.

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

Commission of Inquiry—continued.

2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry, &c.*—continued.

Mr. Tremenheere's book fairly represents witness's statement to him, *Scott* 2265–2268——Partially inaccurate manner in which witness's evidence before Mr. Tremenheere is represented in his book, *Slagg* 2311, 2312. 2319–2323——Witness adheres to the evidence which he gave before Mr. Tremenheere, *Gilbroy* 3088, 3089.

Dissent from the conclusions arrived at in the report of Mr. Tremenheere relative to Scotland, *Boase* 3628–3633. 3654–3674——The report gives only a general idea; it should have gone more minutely into the investigation, *ib.* 3630——Reference to the report given by Mr. Tremenheere of his conversation with witness; inaccuracy of one portion of it, *Richardson* 3838–3849——Remarks on the circumstance of Mr. Tremenheere's report having referred to the Nottingham dyers without any mention of the more numerous dye-works in Coventry, Macclesfield, &c. *Keely* 5408, 5413–5422.

Reference to a statement made to Mr. Tremenheere by one of witness's oldest managers as to the impracticability of dispensing with the women's labour after six o'clock; this statement was not recorded by Mr. Tremenheere, *Hardcastle* 5463, 5464——Exceptions taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere conducted his examination at witness's works; he seemed determined to make a case in favour of legislation if he could not find one, *ib.* 5533–5536. 5567–5569.

Mr. Tremenheere's visit to witness's works was made without the previous knowledge of witness, but the men were evidently aware of his coming, *Blair* 5849. 5853, 5854——Exceptions taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere reported the evidence of a boy named Thomas Spencer, *ib.* 5849–5852.

Statement as to Mr. Tremenheere's report professing to give some evidence from Mr. Sutcliffe, the manager at witness's works, whereas such evidence was really given by Murgatroyd, then manager of the chemical department, who had not a practical knowledge of the system of labour, and made some mistakes in what he told Mr. Tremenheere, *Ripley* 5905. 5911–5913. 5938–5943. 5953–5968. 5989–5997. 6012. 6019——Opinion that Mr. Tremenheere's report does not make out a sufficient case for legislation, *ib.* 5922–5926.

Exception taken to the version given by Mr. Tremenheere of his conversation with witness; the report of the conversation was shown to witness's partner, but witness did not see it, or he should have corrected it, *Pender* 7145, 7146. 7165–7170. 7199——Witness expressed himself to Mr. Tremenheere strongly in opposition to legislative interference with the bleacher or merchant, *ib.* 7147–7150.

Inaccuracy of the report by Mr. Tremenheere of some evidence given before him by witness and by Mary Ann Greenhalgh, one of the girls in his employment; inaccuracy of the report otherwise, as regards witness's works, *J. N. Slater* 7309–7320. 7341–7349. 7364–7366.

See also *Masters. Schunck, Souchay & Co.*

Competition. Tendency of competition in trade to lead to long hours, unless there be a legal restriction, *Barbour* 2065–2067——Competition is the cause of long hours, *Slagg* 2379.——*See* also *Foreign Competition.*

Completion of Orders. See *Foreign Orders. Hours of Labour*, II. *Merchants and Commission Agents. Pushes.*

Continent, The. Absence of legislative interference with the hours of labour in continental bleach-works, *MacAdam* 6950. 6958, 6959. 6984. 7033——Good condition, socially and intellectually, of the bleaching operatives along the Rhine and in Belgium, *ib.* 6961–6964.

Continuous Labour. See *Hours of Labour*, II.

Cost of Bleaching. As regards the price of labour, of fuel, and of chemical substances respectively in this country and on the Continent, the aggregate cost is in favour of the Continent, *MacAdam* 6920–6929. 6969–6975.——*See* also *Foreign Competition. Prices.*

Cotton Mills. See *Factory Act.*

Crook, Joseph (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is one of the Members for Bolton, 2446——Is a cotton-spinner and manufacturer, and is not practically acquainted with the process of bleaching, 2447–2449——Very long hours for which women and children are employed in the bleach-works about Bolton, 2450–2453——Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health, 2450. 2454, 2455——Injurious effect upon the morals and intelligence, 2450. 2456——Children begin work when ten or eleven years of age, 2457.

General feeling of the Bolton operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours of work, 2458–2467. 2512–2516——Grounds for the conclusion that a

Crook, Joseph (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

system of regular hours would not cause any inconvenience or detriment to the trade, 2468-2475. 2488-2490. 2578——Inability of the operatives to protect themselves; they are quite under the control of the masters, 2476–2480——Very favourable working of the Factory Act adverted to in support of a similar Act for bleach-works, 2481-2487. 2490. 2559-2563.

Belief that regular hours would be an unmixed benefit to the master bleachers, 2489——On the ground of health, morality, and education, there is an imperious necessity for legislation, 2490. 2499 *et seq.*——Growing feeling among the masters in favour of legislation, 2491, 2492——Utter inefficiency of a voluntary system of short hours, 2493-2498——Ignorance, in the shape of attachment to bad customs, is one reason of the strong opposition made by some masters to legislation; examination hereon, 2503. 2529-2540.

Inability of the bleachers to promote education or instruction among themselves in consequence of the long hours, 2505–2511. 2553, 2554. 2564-2570——General feeling of the clergy and medical men of Bolton in favour of the contemplated restrictions, 2517-2522——Feeling of merchants and commission agents in Manchester in favour of restriction, 2523-2528——Limited extent of witness's acquaintance, practically, with bleach-works, 2541-2544. 2564-2570. 2575-2579.

Feeling of necessity which induces parents to send their children to bleach-works instead of to school, 2545-2552——Benefits of a system of regular hours combined with an extension of works, 2555-2559——Probability of equally good wages if the hours were reduced, 2559-2561——Effect of free trade in giving an impetus to wages, 2562, 2563. 2603-2609——Independent feeling of operatives in regard to supplying themselves with means of instruction, instead of attending reading-rooms provided by their masters, 2570, 2571.

Satisfactory conduct of Mr. Makant's bleach-works at Bolton, 2572–2574——Feeling of Mr. Makant in favour of short hours, but in disapproval of legislative interference, 2579-2586——Reasons why the operative bleachers do not seek employment in cotton factories or mills, where the hours are regular, 2587–2602——There is a surplus population near Bolton quite sufficient to fill any new mills, 2610.

Cross, Mr. At Mr. Cross's works at Bolton the hours of labour were extremely long when witness was there, *J. Waring* 410.——*See* also *Sunday Labour.*

D.

Discipline. Ill effect upon the discipline in witness's works if he were in any way subject to an inspector, *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634; *J. Slater* 6255. 6324.

Dismissal from Employment. Reluctance of bleachers publicly to state their grievances through fear of dismissal from employment; case in point; the apprehension is well-founded, *Garstang* 707–712. 759-770——Penalty of non-employment in the event of a man being so independent as to refuse overwork, *ib.* 714. 717–719. 759–769——Helpless position of the men in regard to overwork, which, if they refuse to do, they are at once dismissed, *H. Waring* 925-929——It is compulsory on the workpeople at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's to work long hours; otherwise they might be discharged and remain out of work, *Bowley* 2690-2695. 2717–2746——Witness has been threatened by Mr. Harrison with dismissal unless he worked the required time, *ib.* 2725–2743.

Some of witness's workpeople have been threatened with dismissal for irregular attendance, but not for refusing to work overtime, *Harrison* 5060, 5061. 5068–5070. 5108–5117——Witness's people have never been dismissed for refusing to work long hours, *Blair* 6033——None have ever been discharged by Messrs. Sykes for any refusal to to work, *Southworth* 6875, 6876.

See also *Quittance Papers.*

Division of Work. Considerable extent to which, by proper division of work, a remedy might be found for the occasional long hours of labour, *Richmond* 3260–3270.

See also *Hours of Labour*, II.

Domestic Employments. Objections to legislative restrictions upon the hours of labour in the case of domestic or private employments, *Tremenheere* 4892–4899. 4917–4935.

Drimminie, Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is managing partner in the firm of Daniel Drimminie & Co., carrying on Irish bleaching near Dundee, 3556, 3557——The work is chiefly in the open air, and is quite distinct from the work in Lancashire, Cheshire, and other places, 3558–3561. 3565. 3574–3577——The occupation is exceedingly healthy, 3562-3565. 3589–3596——System of regular hours adopted by witness and other firms in Fifeshire, Forfarshire, and Aberdeenshire; particulars hereon, showing that the hours are

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Drimminie, Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

are not too long, 3566–3581. 3587. 3607–3610——Nature of the employment and hours of labour of the females and boys, 3567–3578.

Impracticability of the clause proposed by Mr. Tremenheere, allowing extra time in certain cases, 3583–3585——Impracticability of conforming in the bleach-fields to a system of regular hours, 3586——Satisfaction of the workpeople in witness's part of Scotland with the present hours of labour, 3588. 3591——Healthy and well-conducted character of the women employed in the Fifeshire bleach-fields, 3589–3596.

Bleaching in Fifeshire is to all intents and purposes an out-door occupation, 3592–3594——A limit to ten hours daily would practically be often a limit to a shorter time, 3597——Probability of legislative restrictions interfering with the class of labourers, chiefly cotters, employed in many of the bleach-fields, 3598–3604——Way in which the work is carried on in winter or severe weather, 3611–3616.

Drimminie, Mr. Witness concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Drimminie, *Boase* 3621.

E.

Earnings. See *Wages.*

EDUCATION:

1. *Amount of Education of Operative Bleachers.*
2. *Existence of Schools in the neighbourhood of Bleach-works.*
3. *How far the Hours of Labour are a bar to Education.*
4. *How far the want of Education is the Fault of the Parents.*
5. *Considerations as to the Expediency of Compulsory Education.*

1. *Amount of Education of Operative Bleachers:*

Totally uneducated state of the great majority of the bleachers about Bolton, &c., and of their children, *H. Waring* 972, 973. 1049–1073. 1160–1172——There is now more education than there used to be, *ib.* 1072, 1073. 1117——After eight years of age witness never attended school, except on Sunday, *Mather* 1354–1358——Two sons of witness, employed at twelve years of age, had previously had some education, *Price* 1883. 1907, 1908——Education is pretty general among Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, *ib.* 1909.

Educated state of the children at Claverhouse bleach-works when they begin to work, *Boase* 3652——Statement as to the uneducated character of the children in the spinning mills in witness's locality, *Richardson* 3870. 3872–3876. 3908–3910——Improved education among the boys in bleach-works at Keady, &c., *Leeper* 4282——Most of the boys at Messrs. Charley's can read and write, *Henchy* 4469——Education almost invariably required in the boys before witness employs them, *Kirk* 4590, 4630–4633. 4663–4666.

Out of 127 persons employed by witness, only thirteen can neither read nor write, *Blair* 5861, 5862——Education of the boys who come to witness from the factories, *Ripley* 5998, 5999——Witness does not now employ any person who cannot read and write, *Blair* 6041——Better education among the bleachers than among other operatives, *Packer* 6652. 6655. 6720——Partial education of most of those who attend witness's night school at Halliwell, *ib.* 6736–6738——The workpeople employed by witness can for the most part read and write, *J. N. Slater* 7329, 7330.

2. *Existence of Schools in the neighbourhood of Bleach-works:*

Witness does not know of any school attached to bleaching works at Bolton; school at Halliwell adverted to hereon, *H. Waring* 1150, 1151. 1159——Particulars relative to a school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's works; how attended and supported, *Miller* 1238–1242. 1251, 1252. 1267–1271——There is no school at Mr. Bridson's works, *Mather* 1329. 1352——How far the education of young persons in the bleach-works at Lisburn has been attended to, *Kelso* 4196——Great care taken by Mr. Richardson in regard to education, *ib.*——Facilities for the education of the young persons in witness's employment; nature of their education, *Harrison* 5024–5029. 5040——Considerable facilities for education in Nottingham, *Keely* 5412.

Considerable opportunities of witness's workpeople for education and religious instruction, *Hardcastle* 5465–5469——Opportunities in witness's neighbourhood for the instruction of young persons before entering his employment, as well as for their occasional instruction subsequently. *ib.* 5635–5639. 5729–5737——Duty of employers of labour and of the richer portion of the community in regard to education, *ib.* 5642.

Local opportunities at Bolton for the education of the children, *Blair* 5863. 6040, 6041——Ample provision of excellent schools at Halliwell; particulars hereon, *Packer* 6636–6645. 6722——There are schools and chapels in the immediate neighbourhood of witness's employment, *Southworth* 6892——Less opportunity formerly than at present for the education of the operatives, *James Burton* 7261——Provision of chapels and schools in witness's neighbourhood; subscriptions by witness's family thereto, *J. N. Slater* 7323. 7374, 7375.

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EDUCATION—continued.

3. *How far the Hours of Labour are a bar to Education:*

Impediment to education on account of the long hours of labour, *H. Waring* 974. 1066–1069. 1122–1130——Want of opportunity for education simultaneously with employment, *Miller* 1237. 1242. 1262–1266——Except on Sunday, the children at Mr. Bridson's works do not attend any school, *Mather* 1353–1358.

Difficulty as regards the attendance at the night schools attached to Mr. Ainsworth's works, *Price* 1876–1878——Opportunity in slack times, but not when there is overwork, for boys to attend the schools, *ib.* 1887–1896——Inability of the bleachers to promote education or instruction among themselves, in consequence of the long hours, *Crook* 2505–2511. 2553, 2554. 2564–2570——Want of education among young females at Keady, on account of their constant employment on sewed muslins, *Leeper* 4283.

Much better attendance of the bleaching population than of the factory operatives at the schools and churches at Halliwell, *Packer* 6646–6648. 6656, 6657. 6687–6691. 6721. 6736——Particulars as to the average attendance at the several schools in St. Paul's, Halliwell, *ib.* 6649–6651——Doubt as to the regularity of the attendance at the night school, *ib.* 6687–6691.

4. *How far the want of Education is the Fault of the Parents:*

Wages of witness adverted to, in connexion with the circumstance of his not having educated his children, *H. Waring* 1048–1052. 1057, 1058. 1131–1141——Question as to the parents being blameable for not sending their children to school; how far there is at Bolton opportunity to do so, *ib.* 1060–1072. 1131–1172——Anxiety of the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment for the education of their children, *Miller* 1250–1252. 1272–1276.

As regards the non-education of bleachers' children, the parents, doubtless, are mainly blameable in preferring to send them to work for the sake of their wages, *Milton* 1435–1439. 1494, 1495. 1536. 1563, 1564——Uneducated state of the children adverted to, as attributable mainly to the fault of the parents, *Fletcher* 1653–1660——Non-attendance at school is, in many cases, the fault of the parents, *Price* 1893–1896.

Uneducated state of the young females in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison; this is mainly the fault of the parents, *Bowley* 2647–2652. 2666–2669. 2764–2766. 2772. 2779——Neglect of the children's education by the parents, *Blair* 5840. 5863——Those whose parents receive the best wages are the worst educated, *ib.* 5840. 5863. 6041——Interference with education on account of parents sending their children to the factories for the sake of their earnings, *Packer* 6723–6728——Unwillingness of parents to go to any expense in educating their children, *ib.* 6639–6642.

5. *Considerations as to the Expediency of Compulsory Education:*

Grounds for the conclusion that it is not expedient to provide, by legislation, for the education of children employed in bleaching-works, *Tremenhere* 200–211——Approval of the principle of the Print Works Act being applied to the education of boys working in collieries between the ages of ten and fourteen, *ib.* 203–205——Satisfactory operation of the education clauses of the Factory Act, *ib.* 207, 208——If education clauses could be made applicable, without serious inconvenience to children in bleaching-works, witness would fully approve of them, *ib.* 209–213.

Importance of an extension to the bleaching-works of the education clauses of the Factory Act, *Garstang* 795, 796; *Robinson* 855. 663–684——Question as to the expediency of prohibiting labour until thirteen years of age, with a view to education; unwillingness of operatives to educate their children adverted to hereon, *Robinson* 575–582. 656–683.

Opportunities for, and probability of education, if the children did not work till they were twelve years old, *H. Waring* 1117–1130. 1187–1191——Expediency of legislative interference as a means of inducing education, *ib.* 1173–1175. 1187–1191——Education should be compulsory up to ten or twelve years of age, before employment in bleach-works, *Barbour* 2139–2152.

See also *Age of Employment. Ainsworth, Mr.* 3. *Factory Act. Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes. Mental Improvement. Parents.*

Employment. Inability of witness and others of the associated operatives to obtain employment, as bleachers, from the masters, *J. Waring* 401–406——Evidence as to the reluctance of bleachers to change their occupation or to take their children from bleach-works, *Mather* 1367–1377. 1381; *Fletcher* 1705. 1707. 1711; *Hardcastle* 5471–5473; *Blair* 5847. 6053. 6177–6179; *Morris* 6342–6346; *Southworth* 6879–6882. 6890–6893——Reasons why the operative bleachers do not seek employment in cotton factories or mills, where the hours are regular, *Crook* 2587–2602——There is a surplus population near Bolton, quite sufficient to fill any new mills, *ib.* 2610.

Instances of people leaving establishments where the hours were long, *Betts* 2949–2953——Difficulty in men obtaining employment when they leave any place through the long hours,

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hours, *Betts* 2960. 2961.——Girls engaged in dye-works do not wish for employment in factories, but sometimes leave to work in silk-works, *Brownbill* 3040.

Prejudicial effect of restriction upon the hours of labour in leading to irregularity of employment, *O'Brien* 4018, 4019. 4097-4100——There have been one or two instances of adults leaving witness's employment on account of the restriction upon the overhours, *John Burton* 5209-5211. 5245——Light work on which the younger children in witness's service are employed, *ib.* 5212. 5284-5286——The work for women at witness's establishment is not laborious, *ib.* 5264-5266.

Young children, after employment in the factories, frequently come to witness's works, *Ripley* 5873. 5919. 5998——The women employed by witness are chiefly engaged in stitching, and not at all on machinery, *ib.* 5987, 5988——Explanation as to machinery having displaced such labour as that of John Waring, *Blair* 6039——Opportunities for the employment of men who are opposed to overtime, *ib.* 6051-6053——Though young persons occasionally work for fifteen hours, the employment is not continuous or wearisome, *Southworth* 6902-6907.

Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Unless all finishing establishments be included in the proposed legislation there will probably be a large evasion of the Bill, *Fletcher* 1791-1810——Comparative worthlessness of the Bill, inasmuch as the restrictions upon calendering, &c., when in connexion with bleach-works, would be evaded by the carrying on of such business in separate buildings, and the restrictions upon bleaching would be met by the increased introduction of machinery, and the displacement of the labour of boys and females, *Blair* 6146-6190.——*See* also *Warehouses.*

Execution of the Work. Bad effects occasionally produced on the work through the men being so thoroughly fatigued as not to be able to attend to it, *H. Waring* 985-992——Better execution of the work if more time were allowed than is now the case during a pressure, *Price* 1871-1873——Injury to the goods if hastily finished, or packed improperly; doubt if this would be rendered worse by a restriction upon the hours of labour, *Barbour* 1987. 1997-2000. 2005-2013. 2018-2025——Better, and in some respects more economical, execution of the work, if the hours were regular and limited, *Scott* 2183-2185. 2223——Extra cost and liability to injury if the bleaching processes be executed in too limited a space of time, *ib.* 2304-2307——Better execution of the work done in regular hours, *Sagar* 2415-2418——Overtime is not profitable to the employer, and the work is not so well done in the extra hours, *Gilbroy* 3103-3109.

Extension of Trade. The extension of bleaching and dyeing in Lancashire has not been equal to the extension of cotton-spinning, *Hardcastle* 5790, 5791.

Extension of Works. See *Hours of Labour,* II. 1. 2.

F.

Factory Act. Witness has been a medical inspector of factories, and considers that the Factory Act has been extremely beneficial, both as regards the health and the education of the operatives, *Robinson* 552-558. 599-605. 633——In factories, children are admitted at eight years old, and are allowed to work full time when they are thirteen, *ib.* 674-676——Satisfactory working of the restrictive clauses of the Factory Act, *Haywood* 846. 870-873; *Scott* 2188, 2189. 2193. 2249-2255——Great improvements in the moral and social condition of factory operatives since the passing of the Ten Hours' Act, *Milton* 1413. 1518-1529. 1590-1598.

Defect of the Factory Act in not properly providing for the education of the children employed in factories, *Barbour* 1965, 1966. 2136-2139——In the case of labour in factories, witness considers that legislation has gone too far, *Slagg* 2312. 2357. 2360. 2373.

Very favourable working of the Factory Act adverted to, in support of a similar Act for bleach-works, *Crook* 2481-2487. 2490. 2559-2563——Improved feeling between master and man in consequence of the Factory Act, *ib.* 2483, 2484——Improvement in the health and physical condition of the factory operatives since the Ten Hours' Act, *Brownbill* 3018-3026. 3029-3033. 3051-3057——Instances of factory operatives disabled from work by the system formerly pursued, *ib.* 3031. 3046-3049.

Distinction between spinning and weaving as in factories and bleaching and dyeing, as regards the necessity for legislation, *Hardcastle* 5518; *Ripley* 5919. 6007, 6008; *Blair* 6072-6074. *Pender* 7206-7210——At present, factory inspectors should be done away with altogether, *Hardcastle* 5613, 5614.

Consideration of the effect of the Factory Act upon the condition of the cotton trade, and of the masters and operatives; evidence opposed to the restrictions of the Act, *Rylands* 6565-6573. 6585-6626——Belief that as a cotton-spinning country we are going downwards, and that foreign competition is largely increasing, in consequence of the Ten

Factory Act—continued.

Hours' Act, *Rylands* 6565-6567. 6585-6600. 6620-6626——Doubt as to the long hours in factories having been injurious to health, *ib.* 6609-6613——Doubt whether the Factory Act has tended to encourage habits of domestic industry on the part of the female operatives; prospectus in 1852 of a contemplated bazaar at Bolton for the exhibition of work by factory girls adverted to hereon as being to a contrary purport, *ib.* 6614, 6615.

Strong objection to the system of inspection under the Factory Act; general dissatisfaction of masters on the subject, *James Burton* 7289-7305.

See also *Flax Mills.* *Health.* *Legislative Interference.*

Fifeshire. Healthy and well conducted character of the women employed in the Fifeshire bleach-fields, *Drimminie* 3589-3596——Bleaching in Fifeshire is to all intents and purposes an out-door occupation, *ib.* 3592-3594——The hours average about sixty a week in the Fifeshire bleach-fields; sometimes more, and sometimes less, *Robertson* 3790-3792——Few boys employed in the bleach-fields in Fife, *ib.* 3796, 3797——Education generally of the bleachers, *ib.* 3798.

Finishing Departments. The complaints made to witness, in regard to ill health, had reference chiefly to the finishing work in-doors, *Tremenheere* 84-86. 167. 172. 173. 196——The general appearance of the young women and children in the finishing departments was not healthy, *ib.* 172-177. 181. 182——High temperature in the finishing rooms, in which department the work is not healthy, *Garstang* 742. 772-783.

See also *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions.* *Health.* *Warehouses.*

Firwood and Bradshaw Bleach-works. Total of 340 persons employed by witness at the Firwood works, and of 238 at the Bradshaw works; classification of these, *Hardcastle* 5433——Perfect imitation of silk and worsted goods carried on in cotton in witness's works, *ib.* 5661——The amount of witness's work varies greatly both at Firwood and Bradshaw; the possibility of being steadily and regularly employed is extremely remote, *ib.* 5738-5740. 5796-5804.

See also *Age of Employment.* *Commission of Inquiry.* *Education*, 2. *Hours of Labour*, I.

Flax Mills. Inferior system of ventilation in several flax mills visited by witness, including the flax mill of Mr. Richardson, *Kelso* 4220-4242. 4250-4257——Impression that in some mills the windows open at the top, as a means of ventilation, *ib.* 4221. 4233-4239. 4250-4253.

Less healthy and cleanly character of the occupation in the Irish flax-spinning factories or cotton mills, than in the bleach-works, *Leeper* 4262-4264. 4299-4310. 4316-4330; *MacAdam* 6965-6968. 7059, 7060. 7099-7102——Impure and unhealthy atmosphere in the spinning factories; way in which it becomes loaded with dust and moisture, *Leeper* 4264. 4299-4307. 4316-4330——Boys are not taken into work at the spinning factories at Keady, &c., under thirteen years of age; their education is not therefore in any way incumbent on the factory masters, *ib.* 4279, 4280. 4288-4290——Character of the ventilation in the factory mills under witness's inspection, *ib.* 4292-4298.

Mode of ventilation used in flax mills in Ireland; the windows are very rarely made to move up and down, *Bell* 4336, 4337. 4383, 4384——The great bulk of the flax-spinning in Ireland, is wet spinning, *ib.* 4338-4340——Necessity of the ventilation being from the top of the rooms where wet spinning is carried on, *ib.* 4341, 4342——Under the Factory Bill, as many hours' labour might be obtained weekly by witness's firm as is now the case, but there is no necessity for legislation, *ib.* 4366-4375——Employment of from 150 to 200 women and children by witness's firm in flax-spinning, *ib.* 4376, 4377——The process requiring the thread to pass through hot water is carried on in only one room, there being several preparation rooms, *ib.* 4378-4382.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Fletcher, Stewart. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 1604——Was then working at Salford for Mr. John Lancaster, 1605——Is thirty-one years of age; commenced work when about twelve years old, 1606-1608——Has always worked in the making-up department 1609. 1611——Calendering or finishing is the process before making up, the process of packing being the last and the least important, as regards the hours of labour, 1610. 1678-1686. 1772-1778.

Number of men and boys employed at Mr. Lancaster's; there are only a few girls, 1613——Witness has only worked at dye-works, *ib.*——He left Mr. Lancaster's about four months ago, 1614——Some bleaching was carried on at Mr. Lancaster's, bleaching and dyeing being connected, 1616, 1617——Particulars as to the very long hours of labour of witness, and equally of young persons, at Mr. Lancaster's and other places, 1618 *et seq.*——Excessive fatigue consequent on the overwork, 1624-1631. 1661——Serious effect of the long hours upon witness's health, 1625, 1626. 1629-1631. 1648-1651.

Fletcher, Stewart. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

General feeling among men and boys in favour of a Ten Hours' Act, 1626, 1627——Boys from ten years of age and women work necessarily for the same long hours as the men in dye-works, 1629. 1635–1640——Reference to Dewhurst's, of Salford, under whom witness has worked, as a firm which avoids overtime as much as possible, 1641–1643. 1663–1665——Objection of parents to the long labour of their children, although they do not oppose their working, 1644–1647. 1702–1711——At places where witness has worked, the children have not commenced till ten or eleven, 1652——Uneducated state of the children adverted to as attributable mainly to the fault of the parents, 1653–1660.

Witness left Mr. Lancaster's on account of the long hours of labour, and is now jobbing about at different places, 1667–1669——A good deal of finishing is now being done in some warehouses in Manchester, and it is essential that all finishing establishments be brought under the regulations of the Bill, 1670–1678. 1730–1732. 1758–1780. 1790–1810——The Act should, in fact, apply to all places where bleaching, dyeing, or finishing is carried on, 1674. 1678, 1760–1764——Packers connected with bleaching or finishing works should be included in the Bill; packers in warehouses need not be included, 1679–1690.

Way in which working overtime is to the interest of the masters, 1691–1700——The makers-up, but not the dyers, are paid better for overtime than ordinary time, 1701——Reluctance of bleachers to change their occupation, or to take their children from bleach-works, 1705. 1710, 1711——Doubt as to the wages of young persons in bleach-works being better than of those in cotton mills, 1706–1709——Expediency of Government interference with the hours of labour of women and children, but not of men, 1711–1720.

The evidence given generally by bleachers as to the long hours of labour has been under the mark, through fear of exaggeration, 1720——Statement, as prepared by Thomas Bracken, a maker-up in the establishment of Messrs. Robert Charlton & Sons, of Manchester, relative to the overtime in that establishment; explanation as to this statement; its accuracy, 1720–1729. 1739–1750. 1778–1789——Difficulties in the way of boys leaving work because of the overtime, 1733——It would be quite practicable, as regards the conduct of the work, that the boys should labour for a limited time, and the men for a much longer time, 1734–1738. 1751–1759.

Fluctuation in Trade. See *Hours of Labour*, II. *Foreign Orders. Merchants and Commission Agents. Pushes.*

Forbes, Daniel. Unreliable character of portion of the evidence given before Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Daniel Forbes, of Cairnfield, near Perth, *Boase* 3654–3669.

Foreign Competition. Notwithstanding the fluctuation consequent upon the uncertainty of orders, witness believes that, with improved arrangements, the contingencies of the foreign as well as of the home trade may be met without injury under a system of restriction upon the hours of labour, *Tremenheere* 100–106. 122–166——Absence of danger to the trade on the ground of foreign competition, if the hours of labour be restricted, *Scott* 2249–2255.

Conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in linen bleach-works, will, in time, enable Prussia and France, &c., successfully to compete with Scotland and Ireland, *Kirk* 4601–4604. 4609–4611. 4644–4646. 4701–4709; *Blair* 5864. 6065, 6066. 6142. 6197, 6198.; *Ripley* 5886; *J. Slater* 6320; *Marsland* 6825. 6837, 6838.

Injury to witness's trade in the competition which has sprung up in Belgium and Holland, as well as in Scotland and Ireland, *Hardcastle* 5541 *et seq.*——Formidable increase of foreign competition with this country in bleaching and dyeing, *ib.* 5662–5668——Improved process being adopted in Belgium and other continental countries, where there are no legislative restrictions, *ib.* 5664–5668.

Witness has made it his particular business to inquire into the condition and progress of linen manufacture on the Continent, and has had peculiar opportunities for doing so at the several national exhibitions which have taken place since 1844, *MacAdam* 6916——Statistics showing an immense increase of late years of flax-spinning in France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia, *ib.* 6917, 6918——Less cost of labour in spinning and bleaching in the continental countries than in Great Britain and Ireland, *ib.* 6920. 6971–6973——Cost in fuel, as used in bleaching, respectively in this country and on the Continent, *ib.* 6921–6625. 6969——Relative cost of the necessary chemical substances in this country and in foreign countries, *ib.* 6926–6929. 6969. 6970.

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6932–6937——Frequent instances of Irish operatives being attracted to continental factories and bleach-works, *MacAdam* 6944. 6973–6975.

Grounds for the conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in this country would have a most pernicious effect on the Irish linen trade, *MacAdam* 6951. 7013 *et seq.*——The restriction proposed would prevent the fulfilment of foreign orders, and would otherwise result in a great increase of the already successful and extending competition on the part of foreign countries, *ib.* 6951. 7032. 7052–7054. 7078–7080. 7104–7119——Witness's evidence applies solely to Irish bleaching; he has never seen any cotton bleach-works, or any dye-works, *ib.* 6952–6957.

Injurious encouragement to foreign competition, not only on the Continent, but in India and China (which is already very great), if the conduct of the trade by the merchant and the bleacher in this country be restricted, *Pender* 7133. 7136–7143. 7149. 7154. 7164. 7171–7177. 7207, 7208. 7224–7231——Very low cost of bleaching and dyeing in India and China, as compared with the cost in this country; argument thereon opposed to legislative interference, *ib.* 7136–7140. 7224–7231——Growing competition on the part of India and China; transmission of increased supplies of goods in an unbleached state, *ib.* 7136–7138. 7154. 7171–7177——Way in which the export of bullion to the East may be affected by any impediment to the export of bleached goods, *ib.* 7192–7198.

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Interference with orders for shipment of goods if the hours of labour be restricted, *Henchy* 4461. 4493, 4494. 4505, 4506——Frequent pressure on witness's firm, as regards the completion of orders for shipment, &c., adverted to, as rendering it impossible to carry on business under a system of limited hours, *Hardcastle* 5518–5520——Equal necessity for the speedy completion of foreign orders, notwithstanding the increased shipping facilities, *Hardcastle* 5521–5524; *Pender* 7141–7144. 7181, 7182.

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The regular hours of from six in the morning till half-past six in the evening have of late been exceeded for a few hours, about two days in the week, *O'Brien* 4071-4078——As a rule, girls under the age of twelve are not employed in the Glenmore works, *ib.* 4149——Character of the work upon which the girls are employed, *ib.* 4151-4155——The boys are not employed in hot rooms, and are all healthy, *ib.* 4156, 4157. 4162——Voluntary proceeding of the females and boys in working overtime, *ib.* 4160, 4161.

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The master bleachers of Lancashire and Cheshire are for the most part opposed to legislative interference; reference hereon to a memorial to the Home Secretary, drawn up in 1854, and signed by thirty-three firms, representing a great majority of the business in those counties, 5554–5558. 5588–5591——Exception taken to the inference drawn by Mr. Tremenheere in his report that Messrs. Schunk, Souchay & Co. and other merchants were in favour of legislation, 5566. 5596–5599.

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Healthiness of the bleaching and dyeing of mixed fabrics as well as of cotton and linen, 5656-5659——Goods constantly pass between England and Ireland in carrying out the different processes before final sale, 5660 —— Perfect imitation of silk and worsted goods carried on in cotton in witness's works, 5661——Formidable increase of foreign competition with this country in bleaching and dyeing, 5662-5668——Successful competition on the part of the United States, 5663. 5680——Improved processes being adopted in Belgium and other continental countries, where there are no legislative restrictions, 5664-5668——Illustration of the progress being made in Belgium, 5666. 5690-5692.

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Further explanation as to the hours of labour in witness's works; in May last the total employment did not average nine and a half hours for each person, 5719-5726. 5783-5787——The amount of witness's work varies greatly both at Firwood and Bradshaw; the possibility of being steadily and regularly employed is extremely remote, 5738-5740. 5796-5804——Respect in which the bleaching process is systematic as compared with the finishing; the former process, however, is not capable of being reduced to a regular system of hours of labour, 5741-5748.

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Hayward. Mr. Witness has been told that about three years ago, the people at Mr. Robert Hayward's, at Cresent Mill, near Manchester, worked for four days and nights without going home, *J. Waring* 328-335.

Haywood, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been the mortgagee and owner of some bleaching works at Salford for the last twenty years, but is not acquainted with the details of their working, having always employed a manager, 815-821. 876-879——Has but little knowledge of the bleaching business or of the several processes of the work, 822-825. 844, 845. 861, 862.

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HEALTH:

1. *Injurious Effects of Long Hours of Labour, as in Cotton Bleach Works and in Dye Works.*
2. *Good Health in Linen Bleaching or Open Air Bleaching, as in Ireland and Scotland.*
3. *Healthful character of Bleaching and Dyeing Operations generally.*
4. *Health respectively of Factory Operatives and of Operative Bleachers.*

1. *Injurious Effects of Long Hours of Labour, as in Cotton Bleach Works and in Dye Works.*

During witness's inquiry the children complained much of the long hours of work, and that their health was affected thereby, *Tremenheere* 52-54——Unhealthy appearance of a considerable number of the children employed in the stoves and finishing departments, *ib.* 55. 110, 111. 172, 173——Witness examined some medical men at Bolton, who testified to the effect of overwork in bringing on complaints, *ib.* 65-69. 107. 169, 170——Evidence in support of the statement that the bleachers, and more especially the children and young females, suffer in health through the occasional overwork, even though at times they may work for less than ten hours daily, *Tremenheere,* 110-121. 167-182; *Robinson* 542-551. 562-569; *Garstang* 693 *et seq.*; *Haywood* 826. 838-843; *Milton* 1409; *Crook* 2450. 2454, 2455; *Bowley* 2629, 2630. 2642-2645; *Betts* 2927——Healthy appearance of the adults in the bleaching departments, *Tremenheere* 167. 171, 172——It transpired that many of the children were obliged to discontinue work through ill health, *ib.* 167. 174, 175. 191.

Sickness of young persons in consequence of coming from hot rooms late at night into the cold air, *Garstang* 740-742——Physical depreciation consequent upon the long hours of labour, *H. Waring* 970-972——Excessive fatigue consequent on the overwork,

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

HEALTH—continued.

1. *Injurious Effects of Long Hours of Labour, &c.*—continued.

Fletcher 1624-1631. 1661——Serious effects of the long hours upon witness's health, *ib.* 1625, 1626. 1629-1631. 1648-1651——Injurious effect of the former long hours upon the health, *Shelbourne* 2815, 2816.

Decidedly injurious effect of the long hours of labour, and the high degrees of heat in dye works, upon the health and physical condition of the families and young persons employed therein, *Brownbill* 3004 *et seq.*——Absence of remedies for some of the evils affecting the health of bleachers, *Richmond* 3253-3259——Injurious effect of the long hours and other evils upon the physical condition of the posterity of those who are subject to them, *ib.* 3174, 3175——Great fatigue and injury to health consequent upon the long hours of labour in witness's works, *Leck* 3349-3351. 3394——Less injury to health if the work were limited to sixty-six hours weekly, *Thompson* 3547-3550.

The objections raised by witness, as regards the ill effects upon the health of the boys and young females, apply to the excessive hours of labour rather than to the atmosphere in which they work, *Tremenheere* 4824-4828. 4858-4860. 4876-4882. 4900-4916——Necessity of healthy constitutions in order to stand the long hours of labour, *ib.* 4832. 4834——Further reference to the unhealthy appearance presented by many of the female operatives in the hot stoves, &c., *ib.* 4835-4840. 4876-4878.

Circumstance of young people having at times left witness's work through illness, *Harrison* 5021-5023. 5036-5039——Beyond thirteen or fourteen hours a day it would probably be injurious to females to work, *Morris* 6431, 6432.

2. *Good Health in Linen Bleaching, or Open Air Bleaching, as in Ireland and Scotland:*

There was no complaint at Keady about the work in the bleach fields, *J. Waring* 442. 463——The occupation in open-air bleaching in Scotland is exceedingly healthy, *Drimminie* 3562-3565. 3589-3596——Good health of the women and children as well as of the men employed under witness at the Claverhouse Bleach Field, *Bouse* 3641-3645. 3706-3708.

Very healthy character of linen bleaching operations in Ireland, *Richardson* 3819-3868, *M'Comb* 3945-3948; *Mackinley* 4403-4405; *Kirk* 4585, 4586; *M'Adam* 6951. 6967, 6968. 7007-7009——Exemption of the bleachers at Lisburn from the cholera, *Richardson* 3819; *O'Brien* 4034——Peculiarly good health of the operative bleachers at Glenmere, &c., *O'Brien* 4032-4035——Good health even of those employed in the stoves, *ib.* 4033-4039. 4091-4096,

Proportion of bleachers to mill workers who have obtained relief at Knockadown dispensary in each of the last three years, *Kelso* 4198-4210——Good health generally of the females and young persons employed as bleachers about Lisburn; their hours of labour adverted to hereon, *ib.* 4205-4210. 4243-4249——Evidence as to the very healthy character of employment in the bleach works at Keady, &c., *Leeper* 4261-4277——Much less healthy character of employment in flax spinning factories than in the bleach works, *Leeper* 4262-4264. 4299-4310. 4316-4330; *M'Adam* 6965-6968. 7059, 7060. 7099-7102——Equally healthy character of employment on the bleach-works as in agriculture, *Leeper* 4265-4267.

3. *Healthful Character of Bleaching and Dyeing Operations generally:*

Evidence to the effect that employment in bleaching and dyeing is in itself a healthy occupation, *Robinson* 542. 559-569. 593. 633-644; *Garstang* 746, 747. 763. 771, 772; *John Burton* 5297, 5298; *Hardcastle* 5656-5659; *Blair* 5845. 6060-6062. 6113-6115; *James Burton* 7260. 7270.

Good health generally of witness and his wife, *H. Waring* 1041-1047——Witness has worked as a bleacher for nearly forty-two years, and has on the whole enjoyed very good health, *Price* 1898-1904——Witness's congregation at Paisley used to include some bleachers; there was nothing remarkable in the physical or moral condition of these people, *Lockure* 3320-3323——Witness has been a linen bleacher upwards of thirty years, and has found the occupation very healthy, *Robertson* 3758-3763——Equally healthy employment in the bleach works as on farms, *Allcock* 5323-5328.

Good health of witness's workpeople, *Hardcastle* 5474; *Blair* 5843, 5844; *J. Slater* 6253. 6313-6317; *Marsland* 6800, 6801. 6816——Explanation relative to a statement in Mr. Tremenheere's report about six or eight girls at witness's works who looked rather poorly, *Hardcastle* 5528, 5529. 5584-5587——Circumstance of its having been explained to witness by his foreman that the girls in question were not looking well, "because they had not got over their Christmas," *ib.* 5529. 5584-5587——Witness has been at Halliwell works about forty years, and has been seriously ill only for three weeks during that period, *Morris* 6331, 6332——Witness's father has been at the works sixty-six years, and has been ill only for six weeks, *ib.* 6333, 6334.

Peculiarly good health of operative bleachers under the present system of hours of labour, *Morris* 6364-6367. 6396, 6397. 6426-6432; *Packer* 6658, 6659. 6664, 6665. 6675,

HEALTH—continued.

3. *Healthful Character of Bleaching and Dyeing Operations generally*—continued.

6675, 6676. 6679-6682. 6711-6714. 6719; *Southworth* 6878. 6885 —— The persons formerly employed by witness in bleaching were very healthy, *Rylands* 6543——In a good atmosphere, a young person may work fourteen hours a day without injury, *Bancroft* 6782-6785.

4. *Health respectively of Factory Operatives and of Operative Bleachers:*

Better condition, physically, of bleachers than of factory operatives; the former, however, are not so healthy-looking as they used to be before the introduction of machinery and in-door work, *Robinson* 557-559. 593. 612, 613. 633-644. 685-690—— Less healthy character of the occupation in cotton factories than in dyeing or bleaching works, *Robinson* 583. 585-594; *Brownbill* 3041-3045. 3050; *Morris* 6346. 6431——About equal amount of sickness among the factory operatives and the bleachers, *Robinson* 651, 652.

Injurious effect of labour in factories upon the health, but not in the same degree as in the case of bleach works, *Richmond* 3182, 3183. 3187-3193. 3301, 3302. 3313-3315.

Thirteen or fourteen hours in the bleach works are less injurious than ten and a half hours in a cotton mill, *Morris* 6431——Employment in bleaching is very healthy, much more so than employment in cotton spinning, *Bancroft* 6750-6758. 6767-6785—— Factory employment is very unhealthy; causes thereof, *ib.* 6752-6758. 6767-6782—— A person could work fourteen hours a day in bleach works, and less injury than ten and a half hours in a cotton mill, *ib.* 6757. 6781-6785.

See also *Beetling Process. Blackland Mill, Paisley. Greenhalgh, Sisters. Hours of Labour. Lapping Rooms. Sore Feet. Stoves. Temperature.*

Henchy, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is in the employment of Messrs. John and William Charley of Seymour-hill, 4452-4454——The ordinary hours of labour are from six in the morning till six in the evening, two hours being allowed for meals, 4455-4457 ——Witness is opposed to the Bill on account of its interference with the hours of labour of boys, such interference preventing also the continued labour of the men, 4458-4463. 4493, 4494——Injury to the employers if the hours be restricted, 4461. 4493, 4494 4505-4506——Anxiety of the workpeople for the employment of their children in the bleach works, 4464, 4465 —— Independence of the workpeople, 4465. 4528, 4529.

Liability of injury to the goods if it be necessary to stop work at any particular moment, 4466, 4467——Particulars as to the nature of the employment and hours of labour of the boys in Messrs. Charley's lapping-rooms, 4468-4482. 4504——Most of the boys can read and write, 4469 ——Healthy character of the employment, 4470. 4490, 4491 —— Employment of machinery instead of boys for turning the beetling frames at Messrs. Charley's, 4479-4482——Belief that earnings would be less under the proposed restrictions, 4484, 4485.

General satisfaction of Messrs. Charley's people with the existing practice; they are all opposed to the Bill, 4492. 4495-4497. 4506——Employment of some women at Messrs. Charley's works, 4498-4501 ——There are six boys in the lapping rooms and ten in the bleach works, 4502, 4503——Way in which the Bill would injuriously affect the time of labour of young persons at Messrs. Charley's, &c. 4507-4533——As regards the employment of women in the stoves, witness has never heard any complaint, 4534-4540.

Honorary Distinctions. Practice of continental governments to give honorary distinctions for improved manufacture, &c.; good policy thereof, *M'Adam* 6947-6949.

HOURS OF LABOUR:

I. *Present Extent of the Hours:*

1. Long Hours of Women and Children.
2. Long Hours of Adults, and generally.
3. Comparative Extent now and formerly.

II. *Question as to the Expediency of a Limit:*

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction: absence of Injury to Trade thereby.
2. Evidence to a contrary puport.
3. Consideration of the effect of Restriction upon the Processes of the Trade.

I. *Present Extent of the Hours:*

1. Long Hours of Women and Children:

Conclusion that the women and children are frequently overworked, *Tremenheere* 88-94——Consideration of a statement in the operatives' memorial of April 1854, that very young persons frequently work for fourteen, sixteen, eighten, or even twenty hours daily, *J. Waring* 264 *et seq.*——Instances, not very frequent, of women and young persons working for two or three, and even four days and nights continually without going home,

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Hours of Labour—continued.

I. *Present Extent of the Hours*—continued.

1. Long Hours of Women and Children—*continued.*

home, and with only a few hours rest in the night, *J. Waring* 276-284. 294-346. 356-366 ——Witness has seen women and boys work for sixteen or eighteen hours daily for several months, *ib.* 351-356.

Circumstance of witness having signed a petition in 1854 stating, among other things, that "females and young persons laboured for fourteen, sixteen, eighteen or twenty hours a day, and frequently for days and nights consecutively, without intermission except for meals;" belief as to the accuracy of this statement as applied to a former period, though of his own knowledge witness cannot vouch for it, *Robinson* 545-551. 616-632——Witness has known young women at Bolton to be employed frequently for seventeen or eighteen hours daily for a week together; and adult males for sixteen, eighteen or twenty hours daily for considerable periods consecutively, *Garstang* 695-728. 731, 732. 738, 739 ——Young women are frequently kept nearly all night at work in the bleaching works, *ib.* 724-726.

Long and continuous labour of boys and girls; illustration in the case of witness's own children, *H. Waring* 940-949. 993-1040——Long hours for which a daughter of witness, who is about twenty-two years old, is employed, entailing the necessity of her constantly returning home late at night, *ib.* 1018-1027. 1032-1040.

Statement as to the very long hours of labour at times in the making up and packing departments of Mr. Hardcastle's establishment: young persons and women as well as witness have worked thirty-six hours without any rest except for meals, *Miller* 1218-1223. 1228-1232——Hours of labour of a daughter of witness in the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's; she begins at seven in the morning and is sometimes as late as ten at night, *ib.* 1277-1282——If the children work at all, they must work with their set and for the usual long hours, *Milton* 1404. 1407. 1440, 1441.

Boys from ten years of age and women work necessarily for the same long hours as the men in dye works, *Fletcher* 1626. 1635-1640——Instances of boys working in dye works from six in the morning till twelve at night, *ib.* 1633-1639——Difficulties in the way of boys leaving work because of the overtime, *ib.* 1733.

Very long hours for which women and children are employed in the bleach-works at Bolton, *Crook* 2450-2453——Women and children sometimes work for sixteen hours daily for several days in succession, *ib.* 2452, 2453——The hours vary from twelve to eighteen daily in the case of young persons in the dye works at Salford, *Brownbill* 3008-3010.

The appearance of the females in Ireland seemed as a general rule to justify the conclusion that it was not fit they should work in the hot rooms longer than the regular hours, *Tremenheere* 4780——It cannot be defended as consistent with the health and morals of the boys and young females that they should work for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, *ib.* 4858-4860.

Long hours of labour at present of the seventy-five boys employed by witness, *Ripley* 5908, 5909——Examination relative to evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by some of the young females in witness's employment as to their hours of labour in 1854 and 1855; witness is not prepared to deny that they may have occasionally worked from five in the morning till eight or nine at night, or from twelve at night till eight or nine the following evening, *Blair* 6101-6129——Paper delivered in (*App. p.* 182, 183) containing details of each day's work at witness's establishment from the 18th November 1854 to the 18th January 1855; average of eight hours and a half a day, *Blair* 6475, 6476——Doubts as to the longest hours for which young persons may work in the Irish bleach works; necessity doubtless for their working more than twelve hours in times of pushes, *M'Adam* 7010-7037.

2. Long Hours of Adults, and generally:

In a great majority of instances complaints were made to witness that the over-work and hours were generally excessive, *Tremenheere* 25-29——In consequence of the fluctuation in the demand for labour the bleachers occasionally work for thirteen or fourteen hours, or even longer, and occasionally for less than ten hours, *ib.* 92-100——Witness has himself worked for seventeen or eighteen hours at a time for six or eight months together, *J. Waring* 347-351——Shorter hours of labour at Keady and throughout Ireland than in England, *ib.* 434. 440-442——There are two sets of hands at Keady, *ib.* 443.

Particular instances of excessive overwork of male adults, *Garstang* 701-716. 731, 732. 738, 739——Shortness, comparatively, of the hours of labour in witness's bleach-works at Salford through slackness of business, *Haywood* 826. 835-837——Particulars as to the very long hours of labour in bleach works at Bolton, as shown by witness's own experience, *H. Waring* 925. 933 *et seq.*——Since the bleaching has been done under cover, that is for the last forty years or so, the master has worked the man like a piece of machinery, in proportion to the quantity of work on hand, *ib.* 933-969——The work

and

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

HOURS OF LABOUR—continued.

I. *Present Extent of the Hours*—continued.

2. Long Hours of Adults, and generally—*continued.*

and the labour have been rather slack of late, but even now in some of the finishing departments the labour both of young and of adults extends to fourteen or sixteen hours daily, *H. Waring* 953-969——Witness has known instances of late years of twenty-four hours' work at a time, *ib.* 959.

At Manchester witness has worked from five in the morning till eleven at night for six months together, *Fletcher* 1633——The evidence given generally by bleachers as to the long hours of labour has been under the mark, through fear of exaggeration, *ib.* 1720——In full work the hours extend up to twelve, fourteen, and even sixteen a day, for several days in succession, *Crook* 2452, 2453——Witness worked ten years with Mr. Milnes, and ten years with his successors, Messrs. Hard & Hurst, and shows that during this period the hours of labour were at times exceedingly long, *Shelbourne* 2788-2800——In some establishments at Old Baisford the people work from six in the morning till eleven or twelve at night for weeks and months together, *ib* 2812, 2813.

Very long hours still adopted by most of the bleachers at Old Baisford, *Betts* 2934-2939——Witness has for months together worked from seven in the morning till eleven or twelve at night, and occasionally all night, *ib.* 2923-2925.

Regular hours of labour at witness's works; they do not average sixty hours a week, *Kirk* 4549, 4550. 4560, 4561. 4570, 4571. 4685-4695——Particulars as to the hours of labour at witness's works; a ten-hours' system is practically adopted, except in times of pressure, when the overtime sometimes extends the hours to eight or nine o'clock as night, *Keely* 5354-5362. 5387-5396——Explanation as to the hours of labour at witness's works; necessity of great irregularity according as business is slack or pressing, *Hardcastle* 5480-5501——Further explanation as to the hours of labour in witness's works; in May last the total employment did not exceed nine hours and a half for each person, *ib.* 5719-5726. 5783-5787——Witness cannot supply particulars as to the maximum hours at his works; the people are sometimes there for twelve hours, *ib.* 5783-5786. 5792-5795.

Extent of variation in the work done and the hours of labour at witness's establishment at different periods; paper delivered in (*App. p.* 179), containing particulars hereon, *Blair* 5819-5838——The average hours in 1856, including time for meals and other intervals, were ten hours and a half a day, *ib.* 5826-5828. 5832. 6120, 6121. 6126——The maximum hours on any day were sixteen, including time for meals and intervals between the work, *ib.* 5829-5835.

Particulars as to the hours of labour at witness's works; great and necessary variation in these accordingly as the amount of work varies, *Ripley* 5875-5877. 5895——The average hours in witness's works throughout 1856 were not ten hours and a half daily, *ib.* 5887——The busy season has just commenced, and will last probably from eight to twelve weeks, *ib.* 5910. 5928-5932——Explanation as to a statement in Mr. Murgatroyd's evidence relative to the occasional hours of labour at witness's works; the hours may sometimes extend to ten at night, but, as a rule, nine is the latest hour, *ib.* 5964-5968.

Further statement delivered in (*App. p.* 180, 181), containing particulars as to the labour, hours of employment, &c. of the men, women, boys, and girls at witness's works, *Blair* 6067, 6068——The manager in each room fixes the hour for commencing work in the morning, *ib.* 6145.

3. Comparative Extent now and formerly:

Equal fluctuation in the hours of labour now as formerly, *J. Waring* 414-419——During the last ten years there has been some little amendment in the hours, *H. Waring* 938, 939——Circumstance of the work having been regulated thirty years ago without great fluctuations in the hours of labour, *ib.* 981-984——Tendency of feeling both of employers and employed to shorten the hours of labour, *Barbour* 1983-1985. 2068. 2100-2106——Gradual improvement in the hours of labour in bleach-works, and generally, *Slagg* 2375-2378. 2392-2395. 2399-2403——Extremely long hours of labour in the trade when witness entered it thirty-two years ago, *Betts* 2922-2929.

Considerable improvement in regard to overtime in the Scotch bleach-fields within the last twenty years; oppressively long hours when witness first went to Scotland nineteen years ago, *Boase* 3647. 3726-3751——Tendency in Ireland to shorten the hours of labour in the bleach-works, *Kirk* 4577. 4699. 4700——In witness's neighbourhood there has been no change in the practice of the bleach-mills for more than thirty years, *ib.* 4644.

A tendency to shorten hours does not obviate the expediency of guarding against excessive work occasionally, *Tremenheere* 4817, 4818.

Tendency of employers to shorten the hours of their own accord, *Blair* 5156-5168; *MacAdam* 7081, 7082; *Pender* 7150-7153. 7235. 7304——The hours are much shorter than they used to be in former years, and the position of the workpeople has been gradually improving, *Hardcastle* 5501——Absence of any evil to masters or men in

Reports, 1857—*continued.*

HOURS OF LABOUR—continued.

I. *Present Extent of the Hours*—continued.

3. Comparative Extent now and formerly—*continued.*

consequence of the shorter hours now in operation than in 1843, *Hardcastle* 5749–5756——Successful efforts made by witness since, and in consequence of, Mr. Tremenheere's visit to reduce and render more regular the hours of labour in his establishment, *Blair* 6120, 6121. 6126. 6129. 6156–6168. 6191, 6192——Witness formerly worked as an operative; the employment was then much more laborious than it now is, *J. N. Slater* 7307, 7308. 7404–7407——Hours of labour of the women and children in witness's employment; long hours some years ago before the introduction of improved machinery, *ib.* 7337–7340. 7350–7363.

II. *Question as to the Expediency of a Limit:*

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction; Absence of Injury to Trade thereby:

Consideration of the fluctuating demands of the trade, upon which the masters argue that the labour must of necessity fluctuate in a like degree; belief that, with improved arrangements, the contingencies both of the foreign and the home trade may be met without the present amount of occasional overwork, *Tremenheere* 100–106. 122–166—— Impression that some masters concurred in the views of the merchants, that the evil of overwork might be avoided, *ib.* 164.

Between the ages of eight and thirteen young persons should not work more than ten or twelve hours, including therein two hours for meals, *Robinson* 560. 569. 606, 607. 648–650——After the age of eighteen girls can endure more physical labour, *ib.* 561—— Belief that, with proper measures, the requirements of the bleaching trade need not involve such fluctuation in the hours of labour, *ib.* 595–599——The restrictions in factories should be extended to bleach-work, as regards labour between eight and thirteen, and it should be indispensable that education went on simultaneously with work, *ib.* 674–684——Between the age of eight and thirteen the labour should be restricted to twelve hours daily, *ib.* 674-679——Women and young persons should be restricted from working for more than ten hours daily, or ten and a half as in factories, *Miller* 1258–1260.

In the event of restriction the bleacher must either extend his machinery and works, or decline to take more orders than he can execute in the given time, *Barbour* 1995, 1996. 2013–2015. 2018, 2019. 2028. 2032. 2108. 2126——Difficulty at present in calculating how long it may take the bleacher to execute orders given by the merchants, *ib.* 2013–2017. 2029. 2057–2064. 2080, 2081. 2127—— The time might be an hour and a half or two hours longer daily than in factories, *Scott* 2162. 2256, 2257——The abolition of the power which now exists and is generally acted upon of "pushing" the bleacher for the execution of work, would soon cause the manufacturers and merchants to arrange so as to get the work done within the limited hours, *ib.* 2215–2221. 2232–2238. 2244–2248. 2293–2300——Probable reason why some bleachers who work short hours do not get so much work to do as those who work long hours, *ib.* 2222–2227.

Grounds for the conclusion that a system of regular hours would not cause any inconvenience or detriment to the trade, *Crook* 2468–2475. 2488–2490. 2578——Belief that regular hours would be an unmixed benefit to the master bleachers, *ib.* 2489—— Limited extent of witness's acquaintance, practically, with bleach-works, *ib.* 2541–2544. 2564–2570. 2575–2579——Benefits of a system of regular hours, combined with an extension of works, *ib.* 2555–2559.

An average of ten or ten hours and a half daily is quite enough for persons under eighteen years of age, *Brownbill* 3011. 3064–3066——Difficulty in doing so much business if the hours were limited, unless by extending the works; on the whole, there could be nearly as much done without any extension, *Leck* 3362–3366. 3370. 3389–3392 —— Doubt as to the possibility of securing regularity of orders, *ib.* 3390–3392——Practicability of carrying on the trade by extending the works under a system of regular hours, *Thompson* 3441–3444——Witness considers ten hours a fair day's work, *Robertson* 3803——Variations in the amount of the masters' work are no doubt very great, *Tremenheere* 4821–4824. 4854–4857.

2. Evidence to a contrary purport:

Prejudice to witness's business if regulated by a Ten Hours' Bill, *Harrison* 5044–5048 5052–5057. 5064–5066; *J. Slater* 6327; *John Burton* 7262–7269; *J. N. Slater* 7380–7382——The proposed Bill would seriously interfere with the masters in times of pressure, as they would require enlarged premises, and a greater number of workpeople, whom they might not be able to maintain, *Burton* 5217 *et seq.*; *Allcock* 5316–5320. 5340–5348 ——Increased number of juveniles which witness must employ if the hours be restricted, *Keely* 5395–5401.

Great difficulty in dispensing with the labour of women and children after certain regular hours, *Hardcastle* 5463——Before the passing of the Factory Act witness suggested that from 5. 30 a. m. to 8. 30 p. m. should be the definition of a day, and that

legislation

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HOURS OF LABOUR—continued.

II. *Question as to the Expediency of a Limit*—continued.

2. Evidence to a contrary purport—*continued.*

legislation should not interfere with female labour if kept between those hours, *Hardcastle* 5613——Obstacles to an extension of witness's works in order to meet restriction upon the hours of labour, *ib.* 5800, 5801.

Impracticability of meeting a system of short hours by putting on an additional number of hands during a pressure, *Ripley* 5927–5937——Necessarily injurious effect of restriction upon the condition of the boys; their labour indeed would probably be largely displaced by machinery, *ib.* 6000. 6003–6006——Impracticability of the bleachers or merchants distributing the work equally throughout the year, *Blair* 6042–6044. 6065, 6066. 6073. 6135. 6140–6142. 6203–6228——Witness's main objection to the Bill is, that it interferes to regulate hours, which are necessarily irregular, *ib.* 6196–6198. 6227.

Question as to the more regular hours of late years having been any injury to the workpeople or the merchants, *Blair* 6199–6203; *J. Slater* 6310–6319; *Morris* 6459–6474 —— Considerable expense in extending bleaching works, *Morris* 6407——Necessity of close application to work in order to render the progress of operations successful, *Rylands* 6539–6541——Witness would be glad to work regular hours if it were possible, but considers it impossible, *Marsland* 6816. 6829–6832——Impracticability of undertaking the expeditious fulfilment of orders, if short hours be insisted on, *Southworth* 6909–6913 ——Efforts of witness to make the hours of his people as regular as possible; necessity nevertheless for occasional long hours, *Pender* 7150. 7202–7205. 7232.

3. Consideration of the Effect of Restriction upon the Processes of the Trade:

Assurance given to witness by the men, that certain processes might be postponed for completion, *Tremenheere* 81–83——Practicability, with due care, of suspending work during the process without injury to the goods, *ib.* 920–922——The processes are, in fact, left in suspense at Christmas and Whitsuntide, *ib.* 921——It would be quite practicable, as regards the conduct of the work, that the boys should labour for a limited time, and the men for a much longer time, *Fletcher* 1734–1738. 1751–1759——Inconvenience in being obliged to stop the work at a certain hour; slight extra cost on this score, *Sagur* 2425–2433——Regular hours need not cause any damage to the goods, by interrupting the processes, *Gilbroy* 3135.

Impracticability, as regards the Scotch and Irish bleach-fields, of conforming to a system of regular hours; injury to the goods thereby, *Drimminie* 3586; *Richardson* 3822. 3826. 3836, 3837. 3845. 3892–3896; *M'Comb* 3934–3942. 3977; *Mackinley* 4406; *Henchy* 4466, 4467. 4486–4489——A limit to ten hours daily would practically be often a limit to a shorter time, *Drimminie* 3597——There is no practical difficulty in limiting the hours of the women and the boys engaged in linen-bleaching, *Richardson* 3895–3904——The different processes in the work of linen-bleaching depend one upon the other, and the labour is not continuous; injurious effect therefore of being obliged to stop work at a certain hour, *Kirk* 4556–4563. 4577. 4634–4636. 4715–4717.

The colouring of lace, as dressed by witness, requires, in the first instance, work by daylight, *Harrison* 5064–5066. 5096——Necessity of the dyeing being done by daylight, *Keely* 5354, 5355——Impracticability of carrying on the cotton-bleaching and dyeing processes under a restriction of ten hours daily, *Hardcastle* 5491, 5492. 5518–5520; *Morris* 6393, 6394——Respect in which the bleaching process is systematic, as compared with the finishing; the former process, however, is not capable of being reduced to a regular system of hours of labour, *Hardcastle* 5741–5748.

The labour not being continuous is a strong argument against legislation, *Blair* 5858–5860——Description of the several operations in dyeing, showing that they are of a continuous character, but uncertain in completion, and do not require continuous labour, *Ripley* 5875–5877. 5901–5903. 5934——Explanation of a statement by Henry Waring as to there being no difficulty about leaving certain processes suspended at the Christmas and Whitsuntide holidays; this cannot be done without special preparation, *Blair* 6029, 6030——Continuous character of the processes; practicability, however, of stopping work at any time (as well as on Sunday), if there were no pressure on the part of the merchants, *ib.* 6130–6143.

See also *Adult Labour. Ainsworth, Mr.*, 1. *Breakage of Machinery. Commission of Inquiry. Competition. Dismissal from Employment. Division of Work. Education*, 3. *Execution of the Work. Factory Act. Foreign Competition. Health. Intervals of Rest. Lambeg Bleach-works. Lancaster, Mr. Legislative Interference. Machinery. Masters. Merchants and Commission Agents. Morality. Operatives. Paisley. Parents. Piecework. Prices. Pushes. Relations between Employer and Employed. Slater, John. Spencer & Harrison, Messrs. Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour. Wages. Warehouses. Water Supply (Bleaching Engines).*

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I.

Inspection. Undue interference with the work if a system of Government inspection be established, *O'Brien* 4027-4031. 4103-4121——The proposed inspection is peculiarly objectionable, *Kirk* 4572-4575; *Keely* 5403-5405; *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634. 5711; *Ripley* 6003. 6009-6011; *MacAdam* 7083-7098——Strong objection to the proposed system of inspection as prejudicial to discipline, *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634; *J. Slater* 6255. 6324——Witness would probably shut up altogether if subject to inspection, *Hardcastle* 5757-5761; *Pender* 7188——Tendency of the proposed inspection to set the employed against the employer, *Pender* 7148.——*See* also *Collieries Inspection Act.*

Intervals of Rest. Opportunity for rest during continuous labour, so called, *Robinson* 565——Intervals in the work during which the workpeople can rest or amuse themselves, *Richardson* 3821. 3857. 3860, 3861. 3911; *Hardcastle* 5497, 5498; *Blair* 5831. 5856, 5857; *Morris* 6363, 6364. 6388-6392.

The occurrence of intervals for rest in addition to the hours of meals, does not justify the employment of boys and young females for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, *Tremenheere* 4819, 4820.

Ireland. See *Age of Employment. Beetling Process. Commission of Inquiry. Flax Mills. Foreign Competition. Glenmore Bleach-works. Health*, 2. *Hours of Labour. Lambeg Bleach-works. Lapping Rooms. Legislative Interference. Linen Bleaching. Open-air Bleaching. Operatives. Stoves.*

K.

Keady, Ireland. See *Age of Employment. Beetling Process. Health*, 2. *Hours of Labour. Linen Bleaching. Stoves.*

Keely, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Dyer of silk, cotton, and various articles, and finisher of cotton stockings, 5349——Employs from eighty to one hundred persons; classification of these, 5350, 5351——None of the boys or females are employed on machinery, 5352, 5353——Particulars as to the hours of labour; a ten-hours' system is practically adopted, except in times of pressure, when the overtime sometimes extends the hours to eight or nine o'clock at night, 5354-5362. 5387-5396——Necessity of the dyeing being done by daylight, 5354, 5355.

Way in which the restrictions of the Bill would be most injurious to dyeing masters, 5355, 5356. 5363-5374. 5377. 5397-5407. 5430-5432——Injury to the men if they cannot make up in busy times for the short labour in slack seasons, 5356. 5362, 5363——Necessity of the employment of the juveniles going on simultaneously with that of the adults, 5357-5361. 5406, 5407. 5430-5432——Objection of the men to the restrictions of the Bill, 5362, 5363. 5409-5411.

Strong objection to the lace and hosiery trade of Nottingham being affected by the Bill; statement hereon that Mr. Tremenheere did not contemplate legislation for his trade, and that Mr. Butt said he had no objection to insert a clause, excepting the trade from the Bill, 5364-5374. 5402. 5422-5429——Reasons for concluding that the proposed restrictions would be injurious to the Lancashire bleachers, as well as to dyers, 5374-5386.

Increased number of juveniles which witness must employ if the hours be restricted, 5395-5401——Strong objection to the proposed system of inspection, 5403-5405——Remarks on the circumstance of Mr. Tremenheere's report having referred to the Nottingham dyers, without any mention of the more numerous dye-works in Coventry, Macclesfield, &c., 5408. 5413-5422——Considerable facilities for education in Nottingham, 5412.

Kelso, John Johnson, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Lisburn; is surgeon of the Knockadown Dispensary, 4172-4174. 4197——Statement that employment in the stoves in the bleach-works at Lisburn is decidedly a healthy occupation, though the temperature varies from ninety to one hundred degrees, 4174-4193. 4205-4220. 4243-4249——Few accidents in the stoves, 4194——The young persons employed are from the age of twelve or thirteen upwards, 4195——How far the education of young persons in the bleach-works at Lisburn has been attended to, 4196.

Proportion of bleachers to mill-workers who have obtained relief at Knockadown Dispensary in each of the last three years, 4198-4210——Good health generally of the females and young persons employed as bleachers about Lisburn; their hours of labour adverted to hereon, 4205-4210. 4243-4249——Good character of the ventilation in the stoves, 4220, 4221. 4256——Inferior system of ventilation in several flax mills visited by witness, including the flax mill of Mr. Richardson, 4220-4242. 4250-4257.

Kirk,

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Kirk, William (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is Member for Newry, 4541——Has been a linen merchant, bleacher, dyer, and finisher, for fifty years, 4542-4544——In the works belonging to witness and his sons there are 240 men, eighty-one boys, and three women employed, 4545-4548. 4605-4608——Regular hours of labour at the works; they do not average sixty hours a week, 4549, 4550. 4560, 4561. 4570, 4571. 4685-4695——Interruptions caused at times by the weather to the work of linen-bleaching and dyeing, 4551. 4558. 4561, 4562——Necessity occasionally of working overtime in the lapping-rooms, 4551.

Hours of labour at witness's beetling mills; there are two sets of men and boys, who work alternately day and night, 4551. 4563, 4564——Explanation of the beetling process, as carried on by machinery, at witness's works, 4551-4553——Objections raised by witness's men to the use of improved beetling engines, which he intended to introduce, in order to save manual labour, 4553, 4554. 4626——Boys under fourteen are not taken into witness's works, 4555. 4606, 4607.

The different processes in the work depend one upon the other, and the labour is not continuous; injurious effect therefore of being obliged to stop work at a given hour, 4556-4563. 4576, 4577. 4634-4636. 4715-4717——Injury to witness and his workmen in consequence of the agitation about the present Bill having prevented him from adopting the piecework system of employment, 4560. 4592. 4699, 4700——Absence of complaint among witness's men until the witness, John Waring, came to Ireland to agitate, 4565-4569. 4637-4639.

Strong objection to the fourteenth clause in Bill No. 4, with reference to penalties for obstructing inspectors, 4572-4575——Tendency in Ireland to shorten the hours of labour in the bleach-works, 4577. 4699, 4700——Adult males only are employed in witness's stoves, and they only at intervals; high temperature in these stoves, 4578-4584. 4612, 4613. 4621-4625. 4661, 4662——Very healthy character of the bleach-work operatives in the north of Ireland, 4585, 4586.

Moderate heat in witness's beetling department, 4587——Also in the lapping-rooms, 4588, 4589——Education almost invariably required in the boys before employment by witness, 4590. 4630-4633. 4663-4666——Pressure on the part of the parents for the employment of their children, 4591——Better wages of witness's operatives than of agricultural labourers, 4592. 4626-4629.

Statement as to the great progress made in linen-bleaching and dyeing by the French since 1844; 4593-4597——Great progress also made in Prussia of late years in the process of linen bleaching, &c.; result of personal observations by witness hereon, 4596-4601. 4640-4643——Encouragement given to linen-bleaching in Prussia; absence of restriction upon the hours of labour, 4598-4603——Conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in linen bleach-works will in time enable Prussia and France succesfully to compete with Scotland and Ireland, 4601-4604. 4609-4611. 4644-4646. 4701-4709.

Objection to the principle of State interference with trade, 4604——Belief that there is no necessity whatever for a limitation of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, 4611. 4654——Absence of employment of women in the bleach mills generally in the north of Ireland, 4614-4616——Progress being made in cotton-bleaching in Prussia; probability of successful competition with Lancashire if the proposed Bill be enacted, 4617 4620. 4647, 4648.

Feeling of witness's people that there is no necessity for legislation, 4649, 4650——The proposed restrictions would cause witness to dispense with the employment of all boys upon beetling engines, 4651-4653——Statement showing that the restrictions would be a great obstruction to the bleach-works in witness's neighbourhood with reference to the question of water supply for driving the bleaching engines, 4654-4660. 4710, 4711——Examination on the question whether interference with long and injurious hours of labour is a violation of the principle of free trade, 4667-4683.

In witness's neighbourhood there has been no change in the practice of the bleach mills for more than thirty years, 4644——Regularity of the hours in witness's works adverted to, with reference to the extent to which the Bill would interfere with the employment of the boys; such interference would be an obstruction to the labour of the men and to the processes generally, 4685-4698. 4715-4717——The Bill probably would not affect the meal times at witness's works, 4712-4714——A great portion of the linen-bleaching in the north of Ireland is done in the open air, 4718, 4719.

L.

Lace and Hosiery Trade. Strong objection to the lace and hosiery trade of Nottingham being affected by the Bill; statement hereon that Mr. Tremenheere did not contemplate legislation for this trade, and that Mr. Butt said he had no objection to insert a clause excepting the trade from the Bill, *Keely* 5364-5374. 5402. 5422-5429.

See also *Hours of Labour*, II. 2. *Spencer & Harrison, Messrs.*

Lambeg Bleach-works (Ireland). Witness's firm employs from 300 to 400 persons at the Lambeg Bleach-works near Lisburn, *Richardson* 3817——They bleach linen almost exclusively *ib.* 3818——Healthy condition of the operatives, *Richardson* 3819. 3868, 3869; *M'Comb* 3945–3948——There are different sets of bleachers for the indoor and outdoor work, *Richardson* 3820——Regular hours in the establishment; these are adhered to as much as possible, but are occasionally of necessity departed from, *ib.* 3821–3826——The bell rings at half-past five in the morning to commence work, and at six in the evening to leave off, *Richardson* 3821; *M'Comb* 3918.

It is a rule not to allow boys to work overhours, *Richardson* 3827. 3891——Rare instances of the women working overtime, *ib.* 3829. 3844. 3860. 3887–3891——Calculation that in the course of the year the bleachers are off work one third of the time, *ib.* 3830–3832. 3853–3856—— Practice in regard to ventilation in the stove-rooms, *Richardson* 3833–3835. 3905, 3906; *M'Comb* 3951–3954.

Nature of the limit placed by witness's firm upon the hours of labour of females and boys further adverted to; legislative interference would not apply, *Richardson* 3844–3852. 3887–3904——On Saturday the women and boys get away at two o'clock, *ib.* 3845——When the stoves are working the women labour for about fifty-seven hours weekly, *ib.* 3850.

Witness's firm object to employ boys under the age of fourteen *Richardson* 3870, 3871——Requirement by the firm in regard to the boys being to a certain extent educated, *ib.* 3870, 3871. 3877–3880——There are about seventy-five women, of whom about seventy are employed in the stoves, *ib.* 3881. 3883, 3884——There are not more than a dozen boys, none of whom work in the stoves, *ib.* 3882. 3885, 3886.

Regular hours in the establishment, there being however a necessary departure therefrom occasionally, *M'Comb* 3918–3926——A large proportion of the work is done out of doors, *ib.* 3920–3922——Frequent interruptions to the work by reason of the weather, *ib.* 3923–3926——Witness, and the workmen generally, signed a petition against the Bill of last year, *ib.* 3927. 3928. 3969–3971——There are from seventy to eighty men in witness's department, and a few boys, *ib.* 3960, 3961——Witness cannot speak in detail as to the women employed in the stoves, but they do not work long hours, *ib.* 3972. 3982–3985. 3997–4002——Women are not employed in the fields, *ib.* 3979——Nature of the employment of the boys, *ib.* 3980, 3981. 3986–3992.

Witness works piecework; commences at six in the morning and leaves off at indefinite hours, *Mackinley* 2390–2396——Hours of labour of the boys and young females at Mr. Richardson's works; objection to any interference therewith, *ib.* 4431–4441. 4444–4451.

Lancaster, Mr. Witness, who gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, was then working at Salford at the dye-works of Mr. John Lancaster, *Fletcher* 1604, 1605——Number of men and boys employed at Mr. Lancaster's; there are only a few girls, *ib.* 1613——Some bleaching was carried on, bleaching and dyeing being connected, *ib.* 1616, 1617——Particulars as to the very long hours of labour of witness, and equally of young persons, at Mr. Lancaster's, and other places, *ib.* 1618 *et seq.*——As Mr. Lancaster's witness has worked for many months from six in the morning until eleven at night, *ib.* 1619–1621——Witness left Mr. Lancaster on account of the long hours of labour, and is now jobbing about at different places, *ib.* 1667–1669.

Lapping Rooms. Evidence relative to the lapping-rooms in Ireland, to the effect tha restriction upon the hours of labour is not neeessary on the score of health, and would be extremely inconvenient to the trade, *Bell* 4343–4375——Hours of employment in the lapping-rooms of witness's firm; there is no grievance to be redressed, *ib.* 4353–4356. 4361–4375——Objection to a Government inspection of the lapping-rooms, *ib.* 4357——Proportion of women and children employed in the lapping-rooms; there is no complaint, *ib.* 4358, 4359. 4363——The work is very light, *ib.* 4360. 4363.

Particulars as to the nature of the employment and hours of labour of the boys in Messrs. Charley's lapping-rooms, at Seymour Hill, *Henchy* 4468–4482. 4504——Healthy character of the employment, *ib.* 4470. 4490, 4491.

Necessity occasionally of working overtime in the Irish lapping-rooms, *Kirk* 4551——The heat is very moderate in witness's lapping-rooms, *ib.* 4588, 4589.

Although the females only remained for short periods at a time in the lapping-room in Scotland, they seemed greatly wearied by the heat, *Tremenheere* 4757, 4758.

Leck, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher and singer, near Glasgow, 3332——Employs about 100 persons, the great majority of whom are women; there are ten or twelve children, and about fifteen men, 3333–3336——From thirty to forty women are engaged at the stoves, 3337——The temperature of the stoves varies from 90° to 120°; 3338——Nature of the employment in the stoves, 3339–3341——The usual hours of labour in the stoves is from six in the morning till seven in the evening, but in busy times the women work till ten or eleven at night, 3342–3348. 3367–3369. 3403–3406.

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Leck, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Great fatigue and injury to health consequent on the long hours of labour, 3349-3351. 3394——Growing feeling among employers in favour of shortening the hours, 3352. 3360. 3393——Witness would be glad to see the time reduced to ten hours daily, 3353——Character of the ventilation in the stoves, 3354-3358——How far a system of ten or ten hours and a half daily might reduce the earnings of witness's workpeople, 3361. 3371-3373. 3399-3422.

Difficulty in doing so much business if the hours were limited, unless by extending the works; on the whole, there could be nearly as much done without any extension, 3362-3366. 3370. 3389-3392——Slightly increased cost with which the bleachers would have to contend if the hours were limited; a corresponding advance in the price of goods would probably be demanded, 3374-3383. 3388. 3396-3398——Witness knows nothing of linen-bleaching, 3384-3387——Inability of the operatives to protect themselves, 3395.

Leeper, John, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in medical practice at Keady, in the county of Armagh, for many years; holds some public appointments there, 4258-4260——Evidence as to the very healthy character of employment in the bleach-works at Keady, &c., 4261-4277——Much less healthy character of employment in flax-spinning factories than in the bleach-works, 4262-4264. 4299-4310. 4316-4330——Impure and unhealthy atmosphere in the spinning factories; way in which it becomes loaded with dust and moisture, 4264. 4299-4307. 4316-4330.

Practice as to the employment of boys to attend to the beetling engines; the work is light and healthy, 4268-4275. 4285, 4286——Accidents in bleach-works are very infrequent, save through negligence, 4278——Boys are not taken into work at the spinning factories under thirteen years of age; their education is not therefore incumbent in any way on the factory masters, 4279, 4280. 4288-4290——In the bleach-works boys are not employed under fourteen years of age, 4281. 4311——Improved education among the boys in bleach-works, 4282.

Want of education among young females, on account of their constant employment on sewed muslins, 4283——Character of the ventilation in the factory mills under witness's inspection, 4292-4298——Stoves are not used in witness's district, 4304-4308——Persons employed in the factories who are over sixteen years of age do not require a certificate from witness as certifying surgeon, 4312-4314.

LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE:

1. *Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour.*
2. *Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade.*

1. *Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour:*

Concurrence of masters and workmen as to the propriety of legislative interference on account of the long hours of work, *Tremenheere* 56-60. 134-137——Reference to petitions, signed by clergymen and medical men of Manchester, Salford, and Bolton, praying for legislative interference on account of the overwork, *ib.* 61-70. 170.

Statement on the part of the operatives, that protection is not sought for the adults, but only for the young persons, *First Rep. p.* 16.

Approval of legislative interference in the case of boys and young females in bleach-works, *Robinson* 560. 569. 614, 615; *Miller* 1217, 1218. 1253-1260. 1293, 1294; *Barbour* 1965-1967. 2135-2153; *Richmond* 3181, 3182. 3279, 3280. 3310-3312; *Thompson* 3445. 3472-3474. 3555——Witness is a decided advocate for legislative interference respecting the labour of adult bleachers, and arduous labour generally, to twelve hours daily; evidence in support of this proposition, *Garstang* 743-745. 748-758. 800-814——Decided approval of legislative interference, with a view to the limitation of the hours of labour as in factories, *Haywood* 827. 842. 868-880.

General feeling of the bleachers, in which witness concurs, in favour of a limitation of labour to ten hours a day, as in mills and factories, *Mather* 1331-1337. 1361-1366. 1378-1380——The prevalence of excessive hours of labour in an establishment belonging to a master so careful for his people as Mr. Ainsworth of Halliwell was, is a strong argument in favour of legislative interference, *Milton* 1599-1603——Expediency of Government interference with the hours of labour of women and children, but not of men, *Fletcher* 1711-1720.

Expediency of applying legislative restructions upon trade in cases of crying evils only, and with great caution, *Barbour* 1965. 1996. 2073-2079. 2095-2099. 2128. 2134, 2135——Expediency of legislative interference with Irish bleach-works if young females and boys are employed there for long hours, *ib.* 2134, 2135——The experience of witness since he gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere confirms all that he then stated in favour of interference, *Scott* 2156, 2157——Legislative interference, shortening the hours of labour in bleach-works, would be for the benefit alike of manufacturer, merchants, bleachers, and operatives, *ib.* 2158 *et seq.*——Legislation is equally desirable in bleach-works as in

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LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE—continued.

1. *Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour*—continued.

factories, but it should at all times be carefully applied with respect to labour, *Scott* 2262–2264.

On the ground of health, morality, and education, there is an imperious necessity for legislation, *Crook* 2490. 2499 *et seq.*——General feeling of the clergy and medical men of Bolton in favour of the contemplated restriction, *ib.* 2517–2522——Feeling of merchants and commission agents in Manchester in favour of restriction, *ib.* 2523–2528.

Necessity of legislative interference, unions in the trade being an inadequate check, *Shelbourne* 2861–2869. 2876–2890——About two years ago witness and all the medical men in Salford signed a petition praying for legislative interference with the hours of labour in dye-works, &c., *Brownbill* 3014——Witness is still an advocate for legislative interference with the hours of labour of young persons in bleaching and dyeing works, and in other works involving unhealthy confinement, *ib.* 3015–3017. 3037, 3038. 3058–3074——Witness has always been in favour of a restriction upon the hours of labour, *Gilbroy* 3110.

Though labour in all bleaching works should be limited to ten hours daily, it would be difficult and impolitic to extend such restriction to domestic employment or private trades, though probably involving very long hours of labour and injury to health, *Tremenheere* 4889–4935——Objection to confining legislation to those departments in bleaching and dyeing in which the atmosphere or the processes are injurious to health, *ib.* 4900–4913.

2. *Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade:*

Witness has a very great objection to legislative interference, and can only approve of it in reference to labour in bleach-works, provided that a very strong case can be made out, *Slagg* 2311 *et seq.*——The health, and, to a certain extent, the morality, of children and females in bleach-works is doubtless prejudiced by the long and irregular hours of labour, but witness questions whether the remedy of legislative interference may not be worse than the disease, *ib.* 2313 *et seq.*——Expediency of caution before legislation, as in the case of the factories, where it went too far, *ib.* 2373.

Objections to a limitation by law of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, *Richardson* 3828 *et seq.*——It would be quite as reasonable to limit the hours of labour of farmers as of bleachers in Ireland, *ib.* 3830——Tendency of a system of Government inspection and short hours to prevent the employment of females and boys, and to cause the employment of adult labour only; questionable policy of a measure producing this result, *O'Brien* 4117–4148. 4158, 4159. 4163–4171——Objection to the principle of State interference with trade, *Kirk* 4604——Belief that there is no necessity whatever for a limitation of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, *ib.* 4611. 4654.

Way in which the restrictions of the Bill would be most injurious to dyeing masters, *Keely* 5355. 5356. 5363–5374. 5377. 5397–5407. 5430–5432——Reasons for concluding that the proposed restrictions would be injurious to the Lancashire bleachers as well as to the dyers, *ib.* 5374–5386.

Reference to an attempt in 1845 for regulating by legislation the labour of women and young people in bleach-works; opinions then expressed by Sir James Graham against legislative interference, *Hardcastle* 5443——Much less reason now than in 1845 for legislative interference, *ib.* 5444–5446——Bill No. 2 of last Session would, in conjunction with the Print Works Act, compel witness to close his premises, *ib.* 5447–5449. 5592–5596——Objection to the principle of class legislation, or to legislative restrictions in respect of labour, upon a principle which admits of few exceptions, *ib.* 5600–5617. 5777–5782.

With regard to the restrictions proposed in Lord Shaftesbury's Bill of 1854, they are so extensive and so complicated as to be altogether impracticable, *Hardcastle* 5643–5647——Utter impossibility of applying the provisions of Mr. Butt's Bill of 1855 to the several trades specified in it, *ib.* 5648. 5649——Impracticability also of carrying out the provisions of Bill No. 3; that is the Bill of March 1856; this must have become apparent to its promoters, for they brought in Bill No. 4 in the following month, *ib.* 5650–5652. 5670–5674——Comments on the provisions of the Bill No. 4, as being, though less grasping than those of Bill No. 3, most partial and injurious, *ib.* 5654. 5669.——On the whole, witness considers the four Bills as the finest specimen of peddling legislation ever brought before the House of Commons, *ib.* 5655.

Injurious effect of the proposed legislation upon other trades besides those of the bleaching and dyeing of cotton and linen, *Hardcastle* 5669——In the event of legislative interference witness contemplates shutting up his works, on account more especially of the annoyance, *ib.* 5757–5761.

Much less necessity for legislative interference with the labour of the boys employed by witness than of boys employed in other occupations of different kinds, *Ripley* 5881–5919——Few women employed by witness and dyers generally; legislation would cause

witness

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Legislative Interference—continued.

2. *Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade*—continued.

witness at once to dispense with female labour, *Ripley* 5901. 5906. 5907. 5944–5947. 5978–5984——Objection, on principle, to legislative interference with the labour of boys in dye-works, &c., *ib.* 5916–5921. 5969——Witness did not come to London for the purpose of opposing the Bill, but he is strongly adverse to any legislative interference, *J. Slater* 6253–6257. 6324–6329.

Grounds for the conclusion that a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works would be extremely injurious to the merchant and the bleacher, as well as to those employed by them, *Rylands* 6494 *et seq.*——Strong objection to class legislation; any restriction upon labour should be applicable generally, *ib.* 6519–6523——Restriction is not necessary, *Bancroft*, 6758, 6759.

Although in the abstract witness disapproves of the employment of young persons under eleven years of age, he strongly disapproves of prohibiting or restricting such employment by legislative enactment, *Marsland* 6805, 6806. 6815–6825——Objection generally to legislative interference with labour, *ib.* 6816. 6824, 6825——Necessity for legislative interference in bleach-works, any more than in the case of numerous other employments, has not been proved, *ib.* 6816——Decided objection to the proposed legislative interference, as tending greatly to the injury of the trade of this country, and to the advantage of the foreign trade, *Southworth* 6899-6901. 6909-6913.

Inexpediency of limiting the work of "young persons," that is, of persons between the age of eleven and eighteen years, to the hours of from six to six, on the Irish bleach-works; they could not, in fact, possibly begin at six in the winter months, *MacAdam* 7013 *et seq.* 7069–7077. 7103——Occasional long hours, of merely for some days at a time, do not justify legislative interference, *ib.* 7026–7037. 7055–7060——As regards the restriction upon the employment of "children," or persons under the age of eleven, the Bill would not affect Ireland at all, *ib.* 7061–7068.

Evidence strongly opposed to legislative interference with warehouses or bleach-works, *Pender* 7132 *et seq.*——There has been too much legislative interference already with trade, *ib.* 7147——Further objections generally to legislative interference with trade or capital, or with the labour of the operative, which is his capital, *ib.* 7211–7215. 7249.

See also *Adult Labour. Age of Employment. Beetling Process. Collieries Inspection Act. Commission of Inquiry. Continent, The. Education*, 5. *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Factory Act. Foreign Competition. Hand-loom Weavers. Health. Hours of Labour. Inspection. Lace and Hosiery Trade. Machinery. Masters. Merchants and Commission Agents. Operatives. Prices. Pushes. Relations between Employer and Employed. Rural Operatives. Skilled Labour. Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour. Wages. Warehouses. Woollen Goods.*

Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes. Better position of the factory operatives than of the bleachers, in regard to libraries and mechanics' institutes, &c., *J. Waring* 372–382——Inability of bleachers to attend libraries, &c., or to obtain instruction, in consequence of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 378–382.

Active part taken by the master bleachers about Bolton in establishing mechanics' institutes and libraries, *Hardcastle* 5637–5641——Particulars relative to a library connected with witness's works, to which the men as well as witness subscribe, *J. N. Slater* 7327, 7328. 7367–7373.

Linen-bleaching. Few women in the linen bleach-works at Keady, Ireland, *J. Waring* 433——At one of the bleach-works in Ireland there were nearly 300 women in one room, *ib.* 436——Circumstance of linen being necessarily bleached on the grass; that is differently from cotton, *ib.* 451, 452——Employment mainly of adults in the linen bleach-fields in Ireland, *ib.* 453–455. 462——Question as to the Bill unduly interfering with the labour in the Irish bleach-fields, *ib.* 456–462.

Distinction between linen-bleaching in Ireland and cotton-bleaching in England; in Ireland stocks of goods are kept, but overwork is also necessary, *Barbour* 2129–2134——Propriety, in any legislation, of duly considering the conduct of the trade in Scotland and Ireland, *Scott* 2287–2292——Absence of employment of women in the bleach-mills generally in the north of Ireland, *Kirk* 4614–4616——Necessity of bleaching linen on grass, instead of by means of drugs, *Blair* 6026–6028.

See also *Beetling Process. Claverhouse Bleaching Field, Dundee. Commission of Inquiry. Foreign Competition. Glenmore Bleach-works, Lisburn. Health*, 2. *Hours of Labour. Lambeg Bleach-works, Ireland. Legislative Interference. Open-air Bleaching.*

Lisburn, Ireland. See *Glenmore Bleach-works. Lambeg Bleach-works.*

Lockure, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is pastor of a Congregational Church in Paisley, 3318, 3319——His congregation used to include some bleachers; there was nothing

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Lockure, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

nothing remarkable in the physical or moral condition of these, 3320-3323——Drew up a memorial to the master bleachers of the west of Scotland, on the part of the men, in 1853, which represents his views on the present subject, 3324-3328——Subsequently to 1853, an arrangement was promised, reducing the time of labour to sixty-six hours weekly; this does not seem to have been permanent, 3329-3331.

M.

MacAdam, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Belfast; is secretary to the Royal Society for the Promotion and Improvement of the Growth of Flax, in Ireland; is secretary also to the Belfast Linen Trade Committee, 6914, 6915——Has made it his particular business to inquire into the condition and progress of linen manufacture on the Continent, and has had peculiar opportunities for doing so at the several national exhibitions which have taken place since 1844; 6916.

Statistics showing an immense increase of late years of flax-spinning in France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia, 6917, 6918——Direct aid given by the Prussian government to the extension of flax-spinning and of bleaching by machinery, 6919——Encouragement by the government in Belgium of the extension of bleach-works, *ib.*——Less cost of labour in spinning and bleaching in the continental countries than in Great Britain and Ireland, 6920. 6971-6973——Cost of fuel and of the necessary chemical substances in this country and in foreign countries, 6921-6929. 6969, 6970.

Frequent instances of persons coming from the Continent to Ireland in order to learn and adopt the Irish system of bleaching and flax-spinning, 6930, 6931——Evidence as to the great improvements which have taken place within the last ten years, or so, in the quality of foreign linens; successful imitation of the Irish manufacture, 6932-6937——Explanation as to the advantages of the Belgian manufacturer over the Irish manufacturer, and the considerable extent to which the former is superseding the latter in the supply of linen to other countries, 6938-6946. 6950. 6976-6983. 7114-7119.

Frequent instances of Irish operatives being attracted to continental factories and bleach-works, 6944. 6973-6975——Large use made in Belgium of Irish improvements in machinery, 6945, 6946—— Practice of continental governments to give honorary distinctions for improved manufacture, &c.; good policy thereof, 6947-6949——Absence of legislative interference with the hours of labour in continental bleach-works, 6950. 6958, 6959. 6984. 7033—— In Belgium the bleachers work for long or short hours, in accordance with the amount of business on hand, 6950. 6958, 6959.

Grounds for the conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in this country would have a most pernicious effect on the Irish linen trade, 6951. 7013 *et seq.*——The restriction would prevent the fulfilment of foreign orders, and would otherwise result in a great increase of the already successful and extending competition on the part of foreign countries, 6951. 7032. 7052-7054. 7078-7080. 7104-7119.

Reference to linen-bleaching in Ireland as a peculiarly healthy and cleanly occupation, 6951. 6967, 6968. 7007-7009. 7060——Witness's evidence applies solely to linen-bleaching; he has never seen any cotton bleach-works, or any dye-works, 6952-6957——Good condition, socially and intellectually, of the bleaching operatives along the Rhine, and in Belgium, 6961-6964——Less healthy and cleanly character of the occupation in the Irish flax-spinning factories, or cotton mills, than in the bleach-works, 6965-6968. 7059, 7060. 7099-7102.

Statement relative to the restriction upon the hours of labour of children in the French flax-spinning factories; prosperity of the trade adverted to hereon, 6985-7006——Doubt as to the longest hours for which young persons may work in the Irish bleach-works; necessity, doubtless, for their working more than twelve hours in times of pushes, 7010-7037—— Inexpediency of limiting the work of "young persons," that is, of persons between the age of eleven and eighteen years, to the hours of from six to six, on the Irish bleach-works; they could not, in fact, possibly begin at six in the winter months, 7013 *et seq.* 7069-7077. 7103.

Occasional long hours, if merely for some days at a time, do not justify legislative interference, 7026-7037. 7055-7060——Prices would be injuriously enhanced by the proposed restrictions; what the enhanced price might be witness is not prepared to estimate, 7038-7051. 7114-7119—— As regards the restriction upon the employment of "children," or persons under the age of eleven, witness believes that the Bill would not affect Ireland at all, 7061-7068.

Tendency at present towards shorter hours of labour, 7081, 7082——The proposed interference will very injuriously affect the present good feeling between employers and employed, 7083——The proposed inspection is peculiarly objectionable, 7083-7098—— Belief that the linen merchants, as well as the bleachers, have a strong ground of complaint against the Bill; remarks hereon upon a contrary opinion given by Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dobson & Co., 7104-7113.

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M'Comb, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a working bleacher in the employment of Jonathan Richardson & Company, of Lisburn, 3915-3917. 3957-3959——Regular hours in this establishment, there being, however, a necessary departure therefrom occasionally, 3918-3926——A large proportion of the work is done out of doors, 3920-3922——Frequent interruptions to the work by reason of the weather, 3923-3926.

Witness, and the workmen generally, signed a petition against the Bill of last year, 3927, 3928. 3969-3971——Apprehended diminution of earnings if the hours of labour be restricted, 3929-3933. 3949, 3950. 3962-3968——Impracticability of regular hours, on account of the injury to the goods by suddenly stopping the processes, 3934-3939. 3977——Way in which regular hours would retard the progress of the work, 3939-3942.

Messrs. Richardson & Company's workpeople are quite satisfied with the present system, 3943, 3944——Healthy condition of the operatives, 3945-3948——Nature of the ventilation in the stoves, 3951-3954——Witness entirely concurs in the evidence of Mr. Richardson, 3955, 3956——There are from seventy to eighty men in witness's department, and a few boys, 3960 3961——Witness cannot speak in detail as to the women employed in the stoves, but they do not work long hours, 3972. 3982-3985. 3997-4002.

Interference with the labour of the women only would not affect the men's wages, 3973, 3974——In signing the petition, witness was not aware that the Bill applied only to women and children, 3975-3977. 3995, 3996——Witness is employed at the Lambeg branch of Messrs. Richardson's works, 3978——Women are not employed in the fields, 3979——Nature of the employment of the boys, 3980, 3981. 3986-3992.

Machinery. Introduction of new machinery adverted to as a means of preventing overtime, *Tremenheere,* 164-166——In consequence of new machinery at Mr. Slater's, at Bolton, several men have been thrown out of employment, *J. Waring* 413——Introduction of new machinery adverted to, as applying to the bleaching rather than the finishing department, and thereby not shortening the hours of labour in the latter works, whilst at the same time it lessens employment in the former, *ib.* 469-471. 498. 499——Belief that by improvement in the finishing machinery, and by other means, the masters could meet the requirements of a Ten Hours' Bill, *ib.* 498-502——Through improved machinery, and other causes, witness believes that extremely long hours of labour are not often required now, though such was the case some years ago, *ib.* 547-551. 654, 655.

Recent introduction of bleaching machines at Mr. Bridson's; nature and duration of the labour hereon, *Mather* 1341-1350——Effect of the agitation for a Ten Hours' Bill in introducing more machinery into the bleaching and dyeing works, *Fletcher* 1734——Opinion that a Ten Hours' Act for bleaching works would lead to the introduction of more machinery, and a more equable distribution of the work throughout the year, *Price* 1865-1869.

Objections raised by witness's men to the use of improved beetling engines, which he intended to introduce to save manual labour, *Kirk* 4553, 4554. 4626——The proposed restrictions would cause witness to dispense with the employment of all boys upon beetling engines, *ib.* 4651-4653——Machinery is employed by witness in bleaching, but not for the trimming or finishing, *John Burton* 5170——Witness' steam machinery is worked only by the adult men, *Allcock* 5308-5311——No boys or females are employed by witness on machinery, *Keely* 5352, 5353.

Increased introduction of machinery by witness of late years, and effect thereby of rendering the hours of labour shorter and more regular, and in displacing manual labour, *Blair* 5812-5818. 5823, 5824. 5838. 5858. 6038——Tendency of legislation to increase the use of machinery, and thereby to displace manual labour, *ib.* 5815, 5816——Effect of machinery in superseding adult labour, *Blair* 6038. 6097-6100; *Morris* 6389, 6390——Shorter hours in witness's calendering department through speeding the machinery, *Blair* 6045. 6193-6195——Measures being adopted by witness for superseding by machinery the employment of children, *ib.* 6069. 6129.

More regular hours of late years at Halliwell, in consequence chiefly of improved machinery, *Morris* 6355, 6356. 6459-6470——Belief as to the tendency of legislative interference to prevent mechanical improvement in the various processes of bleaching, *Rylands* 6556-6563——Effect of the increased use of machinery by Messrs. Sykes, as well as generally, to render more regular the hours of labour, and to ameliorate the condition of the workpeople, *Southworth* 6852-6860——Effect of machinery in shortening the hours of labour; anticipated further improvements in machinery, and further reduction in the hours, without the injurious necessity of complying with legislative enactments, *J. N. Slater* 7350-7363. 7383-7399. 7408-7419.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Mackinley, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Working bleacher at Lambeg; is in the employment of Mr. Richardson, 4385-4389. 4425——Works piecework; commences at six in the morning, and leaves off at indefinite hours, 4390-4396——Signed the petition against the Bill on the ground of the restrictions placed by it upon the hours of labour,

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Mackinley, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

and, as a consequence, upon the amount of earnings, 4397-4402——Healthy character of the occupation in the bleach-works, 4403-4405——Impediment to bleaching operations if the hours of labour be limited, 4406.

Examination as to witness having opposed the Bill on the mistaken impression that it restricted adult labour to ten hours a day; objection to it nevertheless, as interfering with piecework, 4407-4451——Interference with the men's labour on piecework if the hours of labour of the boys be restricted to ten hours a day, 4407. 4448-4451——Hours of labour of the boys and young females at Mr. Richardson's works; objection to any interference therewith, 4431-4441. 4444-4451.

Makant, Mr. Satisfactory conduct of Mr. Makant's bleach-works at Bolton, *Crook* 2572-2574——Feeling of Mr. Makant in favour of short hours, but in disapproval of legislative interference, *ib.* 2579-2586.

Manchester. Considerable curtailment of the hours of labour in Manchester, *Barbour* 1985. 2100-2106——Considerable improvement in the education of operatives in Manchester; many years ago scarcely any could read or write, *ib.* 2152, 2153——Improvement without legislative interference in the education of Manchester operatives, *Slagg* 2386, 2387. 2396-2398.—— *See* also *Half Holiday Movement. Warehouses.*

Marsland, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proprietor of bleach-works near Stockport; employs about 100 hands, 6786-6790——The works are turned chiefly by water power, instead of by steam; explanation hereon, showing that restriction upon the hours of labour would be peculiarly injurious to witness, as the water is frequently not supplied till eleven or twelve in the day, 6791-6794. 6822-6824. 6833-6836——Necesity of frequent pushes in witness's trade, the hours of labour necessarily varying much at different times, 6795-6799. 6817. 6826-6832.

Good health of the people employed by witness, 6800, 6801. 6816——Superior description of the hands in the bleach-works as compared with those in the cotton mills, 6802-6804——Although in the abstract witness disapproves of the employment of young persons under eleven years of age, he strongly disapproves of prohibiting or restricting such employment by legislative enactment, 6805, 6806. 6815-6825——As regards some statements made before Mr. Tremenheere by a man named Richard Partington, witness explains that Partington was never in his employment, 6811-6813——Witness only gives quittance papers when asked for, and then without any secret mark, 6814.

Objection generally to legislative interference with labour, 6816. 6824, 6825——Necessity for legislation in the case of bleach-works, any more than in the case of numerous other employments, has not been proved, 6816——Witness would be glad to work regular hours if it were possible, 6816. 6829-6832——Feeling of the operatives in favour of long hours, 6817——Advantage of voluntary arrangement of the hours of labour, rather than of legislative interference, 6818, 6819——Injurious increase of foreign competition if the proposed restrictions be adopted, 6825. 6837, 6838.

Masters. Concurrence of the masters in opinion as to the expediency of legislation to a certain extent, *Tremenheere* 56-60. 134-137——The masters concurred generally in the accuracy of the statements first submitted to witness by the committee of operatives, *ib.* 136.

In 1853, the operatives sent a petition to each of the masters in Lancashire and Cheshire, who, with the exception of five, treated it with silent contempt, *J. Waring* 238, 239——A second petition or circular was sent to the masters in 1854, but this was not noticed by any of them, *ib.* 251-259——Statement that Mr. Slater, of Bolton, does not intend to oppose the contemplated Bill, *ib.* 413——Circumstance of some of the Scotch bleach-masters having objected to the Bill, because Ireland was not included in it, *ib.* 427-429.

The occasional heavy overwork is not desired by the master bleachers or their men, *Haywood* 834. 848-850——Growing feeling among the masters in favour of legislation, *Crook* 2491, 2492——Ignorance, in the shape of attachment to bad customs, is one reason of the strong opposition made by some masters to legislation; examination hereon, *ib.* 2503. 2529-2540——Unwillingness of the masters to reduce the hours, unless, as a body, they be compelled to do so, *Bowley* 2633, 2634.

Feeling of the masters in the west of Scotland in favour of restrictions, *Gilbroy* 3116-3121——Growing feeling among employers in Scotland in favour of shortening the hours, *Lech* 3352. 3360. 3393——Witness would be glad to see the time reduced to ten hours daily, *ib.* 3353——Belief that the masters generally in the west of Scotland are favourable to legislative interference, *Thompson* 3460-3466. 3470-3475.

Decided opposition of the master bleachers in Ireland to the restrictions imposed by the Bill, *O'Brien* 4023-4031——Injury to the employers if the hours be restricted, *Henchy* 4461. 4492. 4494. 4505, 4506.

Explanation as to a meeting between witness and the committee of masters in order to discuss, in a friendly spirit, the point of legislation; the masters, however, seemed inclined

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clined to dispute the necessity of legislation altogether, and witness did not therefore seek any other meeting with them, *Tremenheere* 4812-4816——Statement as to Mr. Hardcastle having in the first instance proposed a certain basis of legislation, and having subsequently repudiated what he had proposed, *ib.* 4813, 4814. 4926-4934——Many masters have doubtless largely exerted themselves for the religious and intellectual improvement of their workpeople, *ib.* 4833.

Witness never told Mr. Tremenhere that he (witness) was in favour of some amount of legislative interference, and denies that he ever repudiated any statement made to Mr. Tremenheere; comment hereon upon certain expressions imputed to witness in Mr. Tremenheere's report and evidence, *Hardcastle* 5531, 5532. 5559-5565. 5727. 5728 ——Nature of witness's first communication with Mr. Tremenheere in 1855; facility afforded him in his inspection of witness's establishments, *ib.* 5547, 5548——The master bleachers of Lancashire and Cheshire are for the most part opposed to legislative interference; reference hereon to a memorial to the Home Secretary, drawn up in 1854, and signed by thirty-three firms, representing a great majority of the business of those counties, *ib.* 5554-5558. 5588-5591.

Statement as to Mr. Tremenheere having said that the Lancashire masters were in favour of legislation, *Hardcastle* 5714-5716——Letter from witness to Mr. J. H. Ainsworth, in January 1855, in which he disapproves of the employment of children under eleven, or females under eighteen, otherwise than in the day, namely, between 5.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m., *ib.* 5727——Remarks relative to the Bleaching Masters' Association, and to their object of preventing prices from going too low, *ib.* 5764-5776.

General objection of the masters in the Bradford dye trade, as well as of witness, to legislative interference, *Ripley*, 5884, 6885, 6020——Legislation would not practically interfere as much with witness and other capitalists as with small employers, who could not adopt machinery, &c., *ib.* 5916-5918. 5948-5952——The master bleachers are, with a few exceptions, opposed to legislation, *Blair* 6044; *Morris* 6403——Witness concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair in their objection to legislation, *J. Slater*, 6239; *J. N. Slater* 7321, 7322.

See also *Education. Employment. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour.*

Mather, Wright. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been engaged at Mr. Bridson's, at Bolton, for about eighteen years; is now in the stove and drying department, 1295-1298 ——Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 1299——Very high temperature of some of the rooms in which witness has worked; diminution of the heat in the progressive room since the date of Mr. Tremenheere's inquiry, 1300-1312. 1322——Employment of young females and boys for from twelve to eighteen hours daily in rooms the temperature of which was from 100 to 150 degrees, 1313-1328. 1338, 1339——The heat did not affect witness's health, 1320.

There is no school at Mr. Bridson's works, 1329. 1352——Children at Mr. Bridson's are not now taken under ten years of age, 1330. 1359, 1360——General feeling of the bleachers, in which witness concurs, in favour of a limitation of labour to ten hours a day, as in mills and factories, 1331-1337. 1361-1366. 1378-1380——Recent introduction of bleaching machines at Mr. Bridson's; nature and duration of the labour hereon, 1341-1350——Except on Sunday, the children at the works do not attend any school, 1353-1358——Bleachers rarely seek other employment in factories, &c.; reason of this, 1367-1377. 1381.

Meal-times. The Bill probably would not affect the meal-times at witness's works, *Kirk* 4712-4714.——*See* also *Hours of Labour.*

Mental Improvement. Complaints made to witness that the overwork in bleaching was a bar to mental improvement, and that in such respect the factory operatives were better off, *Tremenheere* 73-78——Absence of proper opportunity for education or mental improvement in consequence of the uncertainty of the hours of labour, *Milton* 1413-1416. 1505-1508——Independent feeling of operatives in regard to supplying themselves with means of instruction, instead of attending reading-rooms provided by their masters, *Crook* 2570, 2571——Way in which the Bill would prevent young persons from leaving work early in the afternoon, so as to have time for amusement or other occupation, *Henchy* 4516-4533.——*See* also *Education. Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes.*

Merchants and Commission Agents. Feeling of a majority of ten out of fourteen merchants at Manchester, as distinct from the master bleachers, that overwork, as now practised, might be avoided; the merchants thus consulted by witness were named to him by the masters, *Tremenheere* 106, 123-133. 145-158. 4854-4857——The merchants concurred generally in the opinion that legislation was necessary, *ib.* 137-140.

Evidence as to the practicability of arrangements on the part of merchants whereby the work and the hours of labour might be regulated without the present periodical fluctuations, *Haywood* 828-834. 848-868——Grounds upon which witness stated to Mr.

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Tremenheere that "he did not think the merchants as a body would be affected by, or would raise any objection to, legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleaching works," *Barbour* 1956 *et seq.*——Tendency of a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach-works to induce merchants to give orders to the bleach-masters more promptly than they now do, *ib.* 1956, 1957. 1968, 1969. 1987. 2019–2028.

Difficulties in the way of merchants giving out their orders more promptly than they hitherto have done, *Barbour* 1958. 1962–1964. 2013–2028——Strong objection to any law which should compel the merchants to keep in store a certain quantity of goods, or to give so many days' notice to the bleacher whenever an order was to be executed, *ib.* 1964. 2029–2033. 2125–2128——The question of long or short hours does not operate upon the merchant in giving his orders, *ib.* 2020–2028. 2107–2113. 2118, 2119——The merchant would soon accommodate himself to the restrictions upon the bleacher, and neither party would be much inconvenienced, *ib.* 2026–2028. 2114–2117——If the hours of labour were regulated the merchant would have a clearer knowledge of the capabilities of the bleacher, *ib.* 2057–2064.

Merchants and their agents would soon adapt themselves to any alteration in the capability of the bleacher, *Scott* 2162——Objection to legislation compelling the manufacturer or merchant to give certain time to the bleacher for each work to be done, *ib.* 2214–2220. 2232–2235——In the event of a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works the merchants would soon adapt themselves to the necessities of the case, and trade would be but slightly, if at all, inconvenienced, *Slagg* 2339–2352. 2379–2381.

Instance of witness having lost some orders through having upon one or two occasions disappointed the merchant who gave them; agitation about overwork at the time, *Hardcastle* 5521. 5712, 5713——Confusion and irregularity as regards the completion of merchants' orders if the hours in bleach-works be restricted, *ib.* 5628–5632.

Dissent from the evidence of Mr. Barbour as to the practicability of a regular distribution of the merchants' orders, *Blair* 6204-6208; *Rylands* 6495. 6507-6509. 6524-6535——Impracticability of the merchant regulating his orders and distributing them equally at different times, *Blair* 6204-6208; *Morris* 6395; *Rylands* 6495. 6497-6509; *Pender* 7200, 7201——Practice as to the acceptance of orders by the merchants; risk undertaken as to the time of completion, orders being frequently refused for want of time, *Rylands* 6487-6493. 6502-6506. 6550-6558——Frequent loss of orders by witness and other commission merchants through not being able to execute them in time; question whether these orders are lost to the home trade, *ib.* 6501-6504. 6550-6554.

Belief that the linen merchants, as well as the bleachers, have a strong ground of complaint against the Bill; remarks hereon upon a contrary opinion given by Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dobson & Co., *MacAdam* 7104–7114.

See also *Foreign Orders.*

Miller, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Up to November last, had been connected for twenty-four years with the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's, of Bolton; is now in other business, 1212–1215——Approval of legislative restrictions upon the hours of labour of young persons in bleach-works, 1217, 1218. 1253–1260. 1293, 1294——Statement as to the very long hours of labour at times in the making-up and packing department of Mr. Hardcastle's establishment; young persons and women, as well as witness, have worked for thirty-six hours without any rest, except for meals, 1218–1223. 1228–1232.

Temporary effect of the long hours upon the health, 1224–1227——Practice lately adopted by Mr. Hardcastle not to employ children under twelve years of age, 1230. 1243–1249——Very long hours also in the beetling department at Mr. Hardcastle's, 1233–1236——Want of opportunity for education simultaneously with employment, 1237. 1242. 1262–1266——Particulars relative to a school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's works; how attended and supported, 1238–1242. 1251, 1252. 1267–1271——Anxiety of the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment for the education of their children, 1250–1252. 1272–1276.

Advantage if children did not work till they were eleven or twelve years old, 1257——Women and young persons should be restricted from working for more than ten hours daily, or ten hours and a half, as in factories, 1258–1260——Opportunity for instruction under the Factory Act, 1261, 1262——Hours of labour of a daughter of witness in the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's; she begins at seven in the morning, and is sometimes as late as ten at night, 1277–1282——Explanation of the beetling process; the labour is almost continuous, 1287–1292.

Milton, Rev. William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is now curate of the parish of Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, 1382–1385——Was formerly incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, near Bolton; left it seven years ago, 1386–1390——There were very extensive bleaching-works in Halliwell, all belonging to Mr. John Horrocks Ainsworth, 1390–1393. 1405——Witness's congregation was chiefly composed of bleachers, 1394.

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Milton, Rev. William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Evidence as to the extremely long hours for which Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, including the boys and young females, occasionally worked, 1395–1407——Statement relative to two sisters of the name of Greenhalgh, whose deaths were, as witness considers, accelerated by overwork, 1397–1402. 1409, 1410——Injurious effect, generally, of the overwork upon the health, 1409——Very bad moral effects consequent upon the system of overwork, the young men and women sometimes lying down together when resting from work, 1411, 1412.

Absence of proper opportunity for education or mental improvement in consequence of the uncertainty of the hours of labour, 1413–1416. 1505–1508——Great improvement in the moral and social condition of factory operatives since the passing of the Ten Hours' Act, 1413. 1518–1529. 1590–1598——The church at Halliwell, of which witness was incumbent, was built and endowed by Mr. Ainsworth, 1417. 1450, 1451——Mr. Ainsworth also built large schools, and was joint founder of St. Peter's church, and did a great deal for the benefit of his people 1418. 1463–1467. 1530–1533. 1599–1601.

Circumstance of witness having spoken at a public meeting at Bolton in deprecation of the long hours of labour at Halliwell bleaching-works, 1419, 1420. 1569–1572——Witness also spoke from the pulpit relative to the hours of labour, 1421, 1422. 1515–1517——Particulars relative to some quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and witness, in the first instance, about the demeanour of the former in church, and subsequently on account of witness's remonstrances privately, and in his sermons, against the overwork, and also on account of Mr. Ainsworth wishing to interfere in the mode of conduct of Divine service, 1423, 1424. 1468–1476. 1484, 1485. 1511–1517. 1537–1562. 1569–1589.

Statement as to Mr. Ainsworth having forbidden the people connected with his works to attend the church, 1423–1434. 1449. 1509, 1510.——Severe measures adopted by Mr. Ainsworth towards witness in consequence of the quarrel between them, 1424——As regards the non-education of bleachers' children, the parents are doubtless mainly blameable in preferring to send them to work for the sake of their wages, 1435–1439. 1494, 1495. 1536. 1563, 1564——Up to the time of witness leaving Halliwell, he saw no amelioration of the hours of labour; he cannot speak to the state of things for the last seven years, 1442–1448.

With regard to the health of the sisters Greenhalgh, witness believes their constitution was of an ordinary healthy character, 1452–1460——On leaving Halliwell, witness went to a church in Derbyshire; he left this on the score of health, and not because of a quarrel with the patron 1477–1483——Mr. Ainsworth was very strict in not allowing Sunday work, 1486. 1600——Witness has been told that at some places the men have worked on Sunday, 1487–1490.

Extent to which witness remonstrated with parents at Halliwell for not sending their children to school instead of to work, 1492–1496. 1534–1536——Doubt whether the bleachers ever left Mr. Ainsworth's to work in the neighbouring cotton mills, 1497–1501——Larger earnings of bleachers during times of pressure than of factory operatives, 1502–1504——Explanation as to witness having written to the newspapers with reference to the overwork question, and his quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth, 1537–1562.

Concurrence of the local clergymen with witness in regard to the evil of the long hours of labour, 1565–1568——The prevalence of excessive hours of labour in an establishment belonging to a master so careful for his people as Mr. Ainsworth was, is a strong argument in favour of legislative interference, 1599–1603——Circumstance of the objectionable truck system having been in practice in connexion with the works at Halliwell, 1603.

[Second Examination.] Further statement as to the health of the Greenhalgh family, with reference more especially to a contrary statement by the father of the girls who died, and the doctor who attended one of them, 1811.

Morality. Probable immorality through the late hours at which the females leave work, *Garstang* 727–729——Deterioration of the bleaching population, morally and physically, by reason of the long hours, *Crook* 2450. 2456. 2499. 2505–2511——Accommodation provided in Scotland when the men and women work all night at beetling; occasional immorality, *Boase* 3688–3697——Argument that continuous employment is favourable to moral improvement and the attainment of knowledge, *Rylands* 6509. 6521——Less morality and less cleanliness of the half-time factory operatives than of the boys and girls in bleach-works, *Packer* 6724. 6730–6735.

See also *Ainsworth, Mr.*, 6.

Morris, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of a portion of the works of Mr. John Ainsworth, at Halliwell, near Bolton, 6330——Has been at the works about forty years, and has been seriously ill only for three weeks during that period, 6331, 6332——Witness's father has been at the works sixty-six years, and has been ill only for six weeks, 6333, 6334——There are 574 persons now employed in the Halliwell works, of whom eighty-nine are women and girls, and forty-seven are boys under

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Morris, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

eighteen, 6335——There is only one person under eleven years of age, who was taken on under peculiar circumstances, 6336-6339.

Respectability of Mr. Ainsworth's operatives; goodness of their moral character, 6340. 6366, 6367——Long periods for which the people remain in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, 6340, 6341——Preference given by operatives to employment in bleach-works, as compared with cotton mills, 6342-6346——Much better health in bleaching than in factory employment, 6346. 6431——Wages of the females at Halliwell works, 6347-6349.

System of payment by piecework at Halliwell; explanation hereon, as to the earnings under the system, 6350, 6351. 9368-6371——Particulars as to the hours of labour; necessarily long hours occasionally, 6352-6363. 6391, 6392. 6435, 6436. 6443-6451——More regular hours of late years, in consequence chiefly of improved machinery, 6355, 6356. 6459-6470——Inaccuracy of a statement by Samuel Price, that he worked for fifteen or sixteen hours a day through the year, 6358——Intervals of rest or amusement in the progress of the work, 6363, 6364. 6388. 6392.

Peculiarly good health of operative bleachers under the present system of hours of labour; legislation is not necessary on this score, 6364-6367. 6396, 6397. 6426-6432——Anxiety of the people, including the girls, to work overtime, for the sake of the extra pay, 6372-6375. 6437. 6452——Pressure upon the bleacher to complete the merchant's order in a certain time, the merchant himself being subject to similar pressure, 6376-6380——Explanation as to some orders of Mr. Crook which were pressed for completion at Halliwell by a certain time, 6381-6384.

The clamping frames at Halliwell are worked exclusively by adult males, 6385, 6386——There are no women at the stoves, 6387——When the people are in the stoves the heat is not oppressive, 6388——Effect of machinery in superseding adult labour, 6389, 6390——Impracticability of stopping the bleaching process at any hour, 6393, 6394——Impracticability of the merchant distributing his orders regularly throughout the year, 6395.

Feeling of the operatives at Halliwell adverted to as being generally opposed to legislative interference, 6398-6402. 6456——The master bleachers are, with a few exceptions, opposed to legislation, 6403——There is never any work at Halliwell on Sunday, 6404-6406——Considerable expense in extending bleaching works, 6407——Mention of several cotton mills near Halliwell, 6408-6413——Cause of the dismissal of Samuel Price from Halliwell, 6414——Inaccuracy of Mr. Milton's statement as to the young men and women lying down to rest in the same room, 6416, 6417.

Strict discipline enforced by Mr. Ainsworth, 6419——Liberal and benevolent character of Mr. Ainsworth; attention paid by him to the education and social improvement of his people, 6420-6424. 6465-6468——Injurious effect of an independent inspection at Halliwell, 6425——Reference to some complaints by girls to Mr. Tremenheere about sore feet; this has been obviated by wearing slippers instead of clogs, 6440-6442——Remarks on the evidence of Mary Pendlebury before Mr. Tremenheere, with reference to the long hours, 6449-6455——As regards the more regular hours of late years, they have not resulted in any inconvenience to the workpeople or to the merchants, 6459-6474.

N.

Nottingham. General feeling of the Nottingham operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours, *Bowley* 2635. 2659——Feeling of the women and children at Old Basford, near Nottingham, in favour of legislative interference, *Shelbourne* 2877-2879——General feeling of the operative bleachers in Nottingham in favour of regular hours, that is, from six to six, with two hours for meals, and no overtime, *Betts* 2944-2948. 2955-2959. 2962-2967. 2976-2999——The working bleachers have petitioned against overtime and long hours, *ib.* 2944, 2945. 2966.

Scarcity of labour in the lace-dressing business at Nottingham, *Harrison* 4976, 4977. 5017. 5113——There is generally good employment for all the operatives at Nottingham, *ib.* 5067. 5113——Impression as to some establishments at Nottingham occasionally continuing work up to eleven or twelve at night, *John Burton* 5190-5194. 5208——Demand at present for women's labour at Nottingham, *ib.* 5258, 5259. 5274, 5275.

See also *Lace and Hosiery Trade. Wages.*

Number of Women and Children. Witness ascertained that in the east of Scotland there were altogether 618 females and 223 boys employed at the different works, *Tremenheere* 4721, 4722——Witness found that in Ireland there were 1,100 females employed, *ib.* 4780.

O.

O'Brien, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Practical bleacher; is manager of the Glenmore bleach works belonging to Messrs. Richardson & Co., of Lisburn, 4003——There are 244 men, 34 boys, and 140 females employed at these works, 4004——Large proportion of the work which is out of doors, 4005——Nature of the work out of doors, 4006——About 120 acres are constantly covered, 4007-4009——Great interruption caused to the work both in-doors as well as out of doors by the state of the weather at different times, 4008-4017. 4043-4050. 4064-4069——Prejudicial effect of restriction upon the hours of labour in leading to irregularity of employment, 4018, 4019. 4097-4100.

Satisfaction of the working bleachers at Glenmore with the present system of labour, 4020-4022——Decided opposition of the master bleachers in Ireland to the restrictions imposed by the Bill, 4023-4031——Undue interference with the work if a system of Government inspection be established, 4027-4031. 4103-4121——Peculiarly good health of the operative bleachers at Glenmore, &c., 4032-4035——Good health even of those employed in the stoves, 4033-4039. 4091-4096——Ample ventilation in the stoves; degrees of heat in this department adverted to hereon, 4037. 4040-4042. 4079-4096.

Interruption caused by the weather to the work at the stoves, or the finishing process, 4043-4052. 4064-4069——Beetling is the last process applied to linen goods; it is severe work, but there are long intervals of rest, 4051-4056——Decrease in the number of females at Glenmore since Mr. Tremenheere's visit, in consequence of the increasing employment of machinery, 4057-4063——Nearly all the women are employed in the stoves, 4070——The regular hours, of from six in the morning till half-past six in the evening, have of late been exceeded for a few hours, about two days in the week, 4071-4078.

Tendency of a system of Government inspection, and short hours, to prevent the employment of females and boys, and to cause the employment of adult labour only; questionable policy of a measure producing this result, 4117-4148. 4158, 4159. 4163-4171——As a rule, girls under the age of twelve are not employed at the Glenmore works, 4149——Objection to the employment of persons under twelve years of age, 4150——Character of the work upon which the girls are employed at Glenmore, 4151-4155——The boys are not employed in hot rooms, and are all healthy, 4156, 4157. 4162——Voluntary proceeding on the part of the females and boys in working overtime, 4160 4161.

Official Inquiry. See *Commission of Inquiry.*

Open Air Bleaching. Open-air bleaching, or finishing has been abandoned in Lancashire and Cheshire, *Tremenheere* 87, 198, 199——Better health of the operatives when witness came to Bolton, thirty-four years ago, and when open-air bleaching was in practice, *Robinson* 634-644——About forty years ago, nearly all the bleaching work at Bolton, &c. was done in the open air, *H. Waring* 892-895——Shorter hours of labour, many years ago, when the work was carried on in the fields, *ib.* 930-932. 981-984.

The work of witness's firm, near Dundee, is chiefly in the open air, and is quite distinct from the work in Lancashire, Cheshire, and other places, *Drimminie* 3558-3561-3565. 3574-3577. 3592-3594——Nature of the employment and hours of labour of the females and boys, *ib.* 3567-3578——Impracticability of the clause proposed by Mr. Tremenheere, allowing extra time in certain cases, *ib.* 3583-3585——Way in which the work is carried on in winter, or severe weather, *ib.* 3611-3616——Frequent interruption to the open-air work in Scotland, and necessarily short hours, in consequence of unfavourable weather, *Robertson* 3764-3771. 3780-3784——Necessity, at times, of long hours, in order to prevent the work being left in an improper state, *ib.* 3771-3779. 3788-3791.

Frequent interruption, occasioned by the weather, to the progress of the work in Ireland, *Richardson* 3823-3825; *Kirk* 4551. 4558. 4561, 4562——A great portion of the linen bleaching in the north of Ireland is done in the open air, *Kirk* 4718, 4719.

Explanation as to witness having suggested in his report that, in the case of linen or open-air bleaching, labour after the prescribed time should be allowed, in the event of work being interrupted by the weather; how this might be provided for, *Tremenheere* 4934-4949.

Inaccuracy of the evidence of Mr. Robinson, as to grass bleaching having been the practice at Bolton when he first came there, thirty-four years ago, *Blair* 5867, 5868. 6024-6028——When grass bleaching was in practice at Bolton, the hours were probably more regular, *ib.* 6036——More regular hours many years ago, when the labour was partly out of doors, *J. Slater* 6258-6260.

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OPERATIVES:

1. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Legislation.*
2. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Long Hours.*
3. *How far the Working Bleachers can protect themselves.*
4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee.*
5. *Respectability and good Condition of the Operatives.*

1. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Legislation.*

Desire expressed to witness, by the bleachers in Lancashire, &c. for a Ten Hours Bill, as in factories, *Tremenheere* 71, 72——Desire frequently expressed by the bleachers to come under the Ten Hours Act, *J. Waring* 367–371——The bleachers are extremely anxious for legislative interference, *Garstang* 720——Witness was requested to appear before the Committee by the men at Bolton; his own sons did not press him to come, *H. Waring* 1085. 1111–1116.

General feeling among men and boys in favour of a Ten Hours Act, *Fletcher* 1626, 1627——General feeling of the Bolton operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours of work, *Crook* 2458–2467. 2512–2516——The feeling at Mr. Burton's is in favour of working from six to six, except on Saturday, and then from six to four, *Shelbourne* 2894–2914——General feeling of the workpeople near Paisley in favour of shorter hours, *Richmond* 3172. 3182. 3312——Objections made to the hours of labour by many of the workpeople not employed in the stoves, *Tremenheere* 4883, 4884.

2. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Long Hours:*

Satisfaction of the workpeople, in witness's part of Scotland, with the present hours of labour, *Drimminie* 3588. 3591——Healthy, happy, and contented state of the operative bleachers under witness and throughout the west of Scotland, *Boase* 3622–3627. 3639–3646. 3653. 3681, 3682. 3723–3725.

Messrs. Richardson & Co's workpeople, near Lisburn, are quite satisfied with the present system, *M'Comb* 3943, 3944——In signing the petiton, witness was not aware that the Bill applied only to women and children, *ib.* 3975–3977. 3995. 3996——Satisfaction of the working bleachers at Glenmore with the present system of labour, *O'Brien* 4020–4022——Examination as to witness having opposed the Bill on the mistaken impression that it restricted adult labour to ten hours a day; objection to it nevertheless, as interfering with piece work, *Mackinley* 4397–4402. 4407–4451——General satisfaction of Messrs. Charley's people with the existing practice; they are all opposed to the Bill, *Henchy* 4492. 4495–4497. 4506——Feeling of witness's people that there is no necessity for legislation, *Kirk* 4649, 4650.

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The operatives are by no means in favour of legislation, *Blair* 6063——Belief that witness's people do not care for legislation, *J. Slater* 6320–6323——Feeling of the operatives at Halliwell adverted to, as being generally opposed to legislative interference, *Morris* 6372–6375. 6398–6402. 6456——Impression that the bleaching operatives are generally opposed to interference with their hours of labour, *Rylands* 6576–6584.

3. *How far the Working Bleachers can protect themselves:*

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4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee:*

Witness has been from the first a member of the operative bleachers' committee, by whom he has been deputed to give evidence on the present occasion, *J. Waring* 216. 225, 226——The operttives committee was established in May 1853, for the purpose of procuring legislative interference with the hours of labour in bleach works, *ib.* 217. 226, 227——On the notice of motion by Mr. Cobbett for inquiry into the condition of the bleachers, the operatives' committee sent a memorial, dated 20th April 1854, to various Members of Parliament, asking them to support the motion, *ib.* 259–263.

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4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee*—continued.

Letter or memorial written by Mr. Pearce, on the part of the operatives' committee, to several Members of Parliament, dated the 20th April 1854, urging them to vote for an inquiry into the condition of the bleachers, and recapitulating the several grievances of the bleachers, *First Rep. p.* 16.

Particulars as to the occupation of witness since he joined the operatives' committee; his expenses at present are being paid by the association, *J. Waring* 472-479——Explanation as to witness having gone to Keady in Ireland, in 1853, and communicated with the bleachers there as to the expediency of Ireland being included in the Bill, *ib.* 420-432——The Irish operatives in the first instance sent over a person named Kean, from Banbridge, with a view to the extension of the Bill to Ireland; it was in consequence of this that witness went to Ireland, *ib.* 424-426. 503-506. 520-523. 509-512——The operatives' committee have not received any application from the linen bleach works of Scotland, *ib.* 507, 508——With regard to Mr. Kean, the deputy of the Irish operatives, the operatives' committee paid him probably 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* for his trouble and expenses, but nothing whatever for getting up any petition, *ib.* 515-538.

There is no club at Bolton for supporting the workmen in combination against the masters, *H. Waring* 1205, 1206.

Absence of complaint amongst witness's men, until the witness, John Waring, came to Ireland to agitate, *Kirk* 4565-4569. 4637-4639.

There is nothing less honourable in the operatives having their paid delegates, than in the masters having numerous paid agents to watch the present proceedings before the Committee, &c., *Tremenheere* 4870-4875.

5. *Respectability and good Condition of the Operatives:*

The bleachers about Bolton are as a class exceedingly sober, *Garstang* 734, 735——Probable respectability of the operative bleachers as a class, *Tremenheere* 4829-4831——Respectability and intelligence of witness's people, *Hardcastle* 5469, 5470——Facility offered by witness to Mr. Cobbett, and on a recent occasion to the several members of the Committee, to visit his works, to come among his workpeople, and to judge for themselves as to their condition, *ib.* 5549-5551——Respectability of Mr. Ainsworth's operatives; goodness of their moral character, *Morris* 6340. 6366, 6367——Feeling of the bleachers that their position is superior to that of the mill hands; illustration of this feeling, *Packer* 6660-6663. 6732-6734——Superior description of the hands in the bleach works, as compared with those in the cotton mills, *Southworth* 6802-6804. 6889.

See also *Dismissal from Employment. Education. Employment. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Masters. Morality. Nottingham. Parents. Relations between Employer and Employed. Rural Operatives. Wages.*

Overwork. See *Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Restriction. Wages.*

P.

Packer, Reverend Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, for about two years and a half, 6627-6629——Part of Mr. John Ainsworth's works are in witness's parish, the population of which comprises about an equal number of bleachers and of factory hands, 6630-6635——Ample provision of excellent schools in witness's district; particulars hereon, 6636-6645. 6722——Liberality of Mr. Ainsworth in providing funds for the erection of schools and churches for his workpeople, and in bestowing charity to those in need, 6636. 6677, 6678. 6722.

Much better attendance of the bleaching population than of the factory operatives at the schools and churches, 6646-6648. 6656, 6657. 6687-6691. 6721. 6736——Particulars as to the average attendance at the several schools in St. Paul's, 6649-6651——Better education among the bleachers than among other operatives, 6652. 6655. 6720——Morality of the bleachers; evidence hereon opposed to statements by Mr. Milton, 6653-6655. 6664, 6665. 6679-6682. 6719.

Statements as to the excellent health of operatives in bleach works, 6658, 6659. 6664, 6665. 6675, 6676. 6679-6682. 6711-6714. 6719——Feeling of the bleachers that their position is superior to that of the mill hands; illustration of this feeling, 6660-6663. 6732-6734——Suitable character of the rooms at Mr. Ainsworth's works; witness never heard of the boys and girls resting and lying down together in the same room, 6666-6674——Hereditary ill-health of the Greenhalgh family, some of whom have been in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, and have died from consumption, 6683-6686.

Witness, who succeeded Mr. Milton at St. Paul's, was suggested to the bishop by Mr. Ainsworth, 6692-6697——Since hearing of the Bleaching Bill, witness has not had

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Packer, Rev. Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

any direct discussion upon its merits with Mr. Ainsworth or others, 6698-6718——Strong objection to the employment of children, when eight years old in factories, as being injurious both mentally and morally, 6723——Interference with education on account of parents sending their children to the factories for the sake of their earnings, 6723-6728——It would be well if children under twelve were prohibited from working in factory mills, 6724-6729——Less morality and less cleanliness of the half-time factory operatives than of the boys and girls in bleach works, 6724. 6730-6735——Partial education of most or those who attend witness's night school, 6736-6738.

Packing Departments. Packers connected with bleaching or finishing works should be included in the Bill; packers in warehouses need not be included, *Fletcher* 1679-1690——Shortening of the labour in the packing department of bleach works, if restrictions be placed on the other departments, *Barlow* 2054-2056.

See also *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions.* *Warehouses.*

Paisley. The average hours of labour near Paisley have been reduced to about eleven hours a day, and other friendly concessions have been made on the part of the masters; the hours were much longer in witness's experience, *Richmond* 3165-3168. 3182. 3303——Belief as to the willingness of the master bleachers in the neighbourhood of Paisley to limit the time of work to ten hours daily, *ib.* 3168, 3169. 3172. 3280. 3311.

See also *Blackland Mill.* *Wallace, William & Son.*

Parents. Parents feel in a great measure under the necessity of sending their children to work when young, *Robinson* 570-573; *Crook* 2545-2552——Objection of parents to the long labour of their children, although they do not oppose their working, *Fletcher* 1644-1647. 1702-1711——Pressure on the part of the parents for the employment of their children, *Slagg* 2366-2372. 2383, 2384. 2390; *Brownbill* 3075-3077; *Henchy* 4464, 4465; *Kirk* 4591; *John Barton* 5204, 5205. 5215, 5216; *Blair* 6069, 6070; *Southworth* 6849. 6851.

Explanation as to a certain occurrence about seven or eight years ago, which induced witness to say that he would discharge the parents of children between eleven and thirteen years old, unless the latter were sent to his works instead of being allowed to idle about, and get into mischief, *Hardcastle* 5552, 5553——Legislative interference is chiefly required to protect the children from their parents' cupidity, *Scott* 2286——In many instances the masters require the parents to send their children to the works, *Bowley* 2763. 2767-2771.

See also *Education,* 4.

Pearce, Richard. Mr. Richard Pearce has been secretary to the operatives' committee since about four months after its establishment, *J. Waring* 228-230. 256——Letter from Mr. Pearce, on the part of the operatives, to several Members of Parliament, dated 20 April 1854, urging them to vote for an inquiry, and recapitulating the grievances of the bleachers, *First Rep. p.* 16——The secretary to the committee is also the treasurer, *J. Waring* 513, 514.——*See* also *Agitation.*

Pender, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Commission agent and merchant at Manchester; extensive nature of his business, 7120-7125——Employs about 120 people in the warehouse, whose ages are from thirteen upwards, 7126, 7127——The average hours are about ten a day, but they necessarily are somewhat irregular, 7128, 7129——The wages are based upon a system of piece-work, as an inducement to the men to shorten the hours as much as possible, 7129——The work is carried on in large airy rooms, 7130——Character of the education of the men and boys, 7131.

Evidence strongly opposed to any restriction upon the hours of labour in the Manchester warehouses or in the bleach works, 7132 *et seq.*——Injurious encouragement to foreign competition, not only on the Continent but in India and China (where it is already very great), if the conduct of the trade by the merchant and the bleacher in this country be restricted, 7133. 7136-7143. 7149. 7154. 7164. 7171-7177. 7207, 7208. 7224-7231——As regards the completion of orders, the bleacher is in fact the servant of witness, as commission agent, in the same way that witness is the servant of the exporting merchant, in being obliged to furnish the orders by a given time, 7134, 7135. 7144. 7158, 7159. 7200, 7201.

Loss of orders by the merchant and the bleacher if they cannot be undertaken by a certain day; instances of orders lost by witness, 7135. 7160, 7161. 7164. 7178-7185. 7200. 7216-7223——Very low cost of bleaching and dyeing in India and China, as compared with the cost in this country; argument thereon opposed to legislative interference, 7136-7140. 7224-7231——Equal necessity for the speedy completion of foreign orders, notwithstanding the increased shipping facilities, 7141-7144. 7181, 7182.

Exception taken to the version given by Mr. Tremenheere of his conversation with witness; the report of this conversation was shown to witness's partner, but witness did not see it, else he should have corrected it, 7145, 7146. 7165-7170. 7199——Witness expressed

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Pender, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

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Ripley, Henry William. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Dyer, in conjunction with his father, of worsted and mixed goods at Bradford, 5869——Employs 491 persons, of whom only thirteen are women, and seventy-five are boys between thirteen and eighteen years of age, 5870–5872——As a rule children under thirteen are not employed, 5873. 5962, 5963——Young children after employment in the factories constantly come to witness's works, 5873. 5919. 5998——The boys are divided over the entire works, 5874. 5934——Particulars as to the hours of labour; great and necessary variation in these accordingly as the amount of work varies, 5875–5877. 5895——Pressure upon the dyer in consequence of pressure on the merchant, 5875, 5876. 5895.

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Scott, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manufacturer at Manchester, 2154——Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 2155——His experience in the meantime confirms all he then stated, 2156, 2157——Considers that legislative interference, shortening the hours of labour in bleach works, would be for the benefit alike of manufacturers, merchants, bleachers, and operatives, 2158 *et seq.*——Merchants and their agents would soon adapt themselves to any alteration in the capabilities of the bleacher, 2162——The time might be an hour and a half or two hours longer daily than in factories, 2162. 2256, 2257——Witness concurs generally in Mr. Barbour's evidence, 2163, 2164. 2263, 2264.

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Distinction to be drawn between the calenderer and the packer up in Manchester, as regards legislative interference, 2269-2275——Inducement to the operative bleachers to work long hours, inasmuch as they work by the piece, 2276-2285——Legislative interference is chiefly required to protect the children from their parents' cupidity, 2286——Propriety in any legislation of duly considering the conduct of the trade in Scotland and Ireland, 2287-2292——Extra cost and liability to injury, if the bleaching processes be executed in too limited a space of time, 2304-2307.

Shelbourne, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Finisher of hosiery at Mr. Burton's of Old Baisford, near Nottingham, 2780-2783——Witness commenced work when eight years old, for Mr. Milnes of New Baisford; he was then quite uneducated, 2784-2787——He worked for ten years with Mr. Milnes, and for ten years with his successors, Messrs. Hard & Hurst, and shows that during this period the hours of labour were at times exceedingly long, 2788-2800——Very long hours of labour in Mr. Burton's establishment for some five years after witness joined it about ten years ago, 2801-2808.

Reference to a union formed by the workpeople in the Old Baisford district about five years ago, not to work beyond certain hours; of all the masters, only Mr. Burton and one other have continued to abide by the hours then agreed upon, 2807-2814——In some establishments at Old Baisford the people work from six in the morning till eleven or twelve at night for weeks and months together, 2812, 2813——Mr. Burton never allows his people to work after nine at night, 2814——Injurious effect of the former long hours upon the health, 2815, 2816——Employment of very young boys as well as adults in the bleaching department at Mr. Burton's; hours of labour of these boys, 2819-2828. 2836-2846.

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Slagg, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manufacturer and commission agent at Manchester, 2308, 2309——Partially inaccurate manner in which witness's evidence before Mr. Tremenheere is represented in his book, 2311, 2312. 2319-2323——Witness has a very great objection to legislative interference, and can only approve of it in reference to labour in bleach-works, provided that a very strong case can be made out, 2311 *et seq.*——In the case of labour in factories, witness considers that legislation has gone too far, 2312. 2357. 2360. 2373.

The health, and, to a certain extent, the morality, of children and females in bleach-works is doubtless prejudiced by the long and irregular hours of labour, but witness questions whether the remedy of legislative interference may not be worse than the disease, 2313 *et seq.*——On the score of education it is very desirable that some restriction should be imposed in regard to the age of employment of children in bleach-works, 2323-2326. 2355-2359. 2382-2391.

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Mr. Blair, 6239——From 150 to 200 persons are employed by witness's firm, 6240. 6309——Children under eleven have only been employed at the parents' request, 6241, 6242. 6281-6284.

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Slater, John. Extremely long hours of labour in Mr. Slater's establishment at Bolton when witness used to work there several years ago, *J. Waring* 267 *et seq.*——At one time, at Mr. Slater's, the women and boys used to work for sixteen hours, and rest eight hours, *ib.* 270-274——Instance of continuous labour recently at Mr. Slater's, throughout all day and night of Friday, and till four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, *ib.* 325-327——Circumstance of the work being slack for the last year or two, *ib.* 411, 412.

Witness, who has worked for forty-two years as a bleacher, was turned off by Mr. Slater about three years ago as being too old; he was then sixty-two years of age, *H. Waring* 881-885. 976-978. 1192-1194——Witness worked for Mr. Slater for thirty-eight years, *ib.* 886, 887——Witness has known his wife to work for a week without taking off her clothes or going to bed; this was many years ago, *ib.* 949-952. 1005-1014——Circumstances under which one of witness's children commenced work when about eight years of age; inability of witness to have prevented this, as it was the wish of Mr. Slater and his foreman, *ib.* 1076-1082. 1090-1099. 1103-1110. 1181-1186——Statement as to witness having been threatened with dismissal by Mr. Joseph Slater unless one of his daughters left other employment for that of Mr. Slater, *ib.* 1100-1102.

Examination with reference to the evidence of John Waring as to the occasionally long hours of labour in witness's establishment; how far witness is prepared to contradict this evidence, *J. Slater* 6243-6252——Circumstances under which one-third of the hands once worked all Friday night, and up to five on the afternoon of Saturday, *ib.* 6251.

How far witness is prepared to contradict the evidence of Henry Waring as to the labour of himself, his wife and children at witness's works, and as to his having been threatened by witness's son with dismissal unless he brought a young daughter to work, *J. Slater* 6261-6277. 6281-6284. 6298-6304——Henry Waring's wife was not regularly employed, and if she worked for very long hours it was at her own option, *ib.* 6261-6264——Henry Waring may have worked sixteen hours a day, but not continuously for eleven years, *ib.* 6265——Henry Waring's children were employed at his own desire, *ib.* 6281-6284.

Slater, John Nutall. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Master bleacher at Dunscar, near Bolton, 7306——Formerly worked as an operative; the employment was then much more laborious than it now is, 7307, 7308. 7404-7407——Inaccuracy of the report by Mr. Tremenheere of some evidence given before him by witness and by Mary Ann Greenhalgh, one of the girls in his employment; inaccuracy of the report otherwise as regards witness's works, 7309-7320. 7341-7349. 7364-7366——Witness concurs in the evidence of Mr. Hardcastle, 7321, 7322.

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Number and ages of the boys and girls employed by witness; there are seven at or under eleven, 7333-7336——Hours of labour of the women and children; long hours some

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some years ago, before the introduction of improved machinery, 7327-7340. 7350-7363——Serious effect of the Bill in obstructing witness's business, 7380-7382——Further reference to the effect of machinery in shortening the hours of labour; anticipated further improvements in machinery, and further reduction in the hours, without the injurious necessity of complying with legislative enactment, 7383-7399. 7408-7419.

Sore Feet. Witness has not particularly noticed that the young persons are troubled with sore feet, *Robinson* 565. 567——Suffering of the children in bleaching works from standing for so many hours, *Garstang* 784-789——Explanation as to some of the girls in witness's employment having complained to Mr. Tremenheere of sore feet; this was through wearing clogs, which have since been abolished, *Blair* 5848.

Southworth, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Messrs. Sykes & Company's bleach-works, near Stockport; has been forty years in the trade, 6839-6841——These works were not visited by Mr. Tremenheere, 6842, 6843——There are 206 persons employed at the works, none being under eleven years of age, 6844-6849——Objection to the employment of children at eight years of age, 6848-6850——Pressure on the part of parents to get their children employed when very young, 6849. 6851.

Effect of the increased use of machinery by Messrs. Sykes as well as generally to render more regular the hours of labour and to ameliorate the condition of the work-people, 6852-6860——The average hours at Messrs. Sykes & Co.'s works are about ten hours a day, but sometimes extend to fifteen hours a day, 6861, 6862——Impracticability of avoiding the present irregularity in the hours, it being imperative to complete orders in a given time, 6863-6868. 6909.

System of payment by the piece at Messrs. Sykes's works; good earnings occasionally, 6869-6872——Willingness of the operatives to work long hours, 6874——None have ever been discharged for any refusal to work, 6875, 6876——Witness never heard of quittance papers, with secret marks upon them, being given to discharged men, 6877——Peculiarly good health of bleachers, 6878. 6885——Facility for obtaining labour in bleach-works; unwillingness of the people to leave the employment, 6879-6882. 6890, 6891. 6893.

Large and lofty rooms in which Messrs. Sykes's people work, 6883——Nature of the employment in the stoves; the stovers are a very healthy class, 6884-6887. 6908——Greater respectability of bleachers than of mill hands, 6889——There are schools and chapels in the immediate neighbourhood of witness's employment, 6892——Inaccuracy of the evidence given by Richard Partington to Mr. Tremenheere as to his hours of labour at Messrs. Sykes's, 6894-6896——The operatives are very much employed together in families, 6897.

Decided objection to the proposed legislative interference, as tending to the great injury of the trade of this country, and to the advantage of the foreign trade, 6899-6901. 6909-6913——Though young persons occasionally work for fifteen hours, the labour is not continuous or wearisome, 6902-6907——Impracticability of undertaking the expeditious fulfilment of orders if short hours be insisted on, 6909-6913.

Spencer & Harrison, Messrs. Witness is a bleacher, in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, of Nottingham, *Bowley* 2611-2615——From fifty to sixty persons are employed, of whom about a dozen are females under eighteen years of age; there are scarcely any boys, *ib.* 2616-2618. 2661-2664——Extremely long hours of labour occasionally of these females as well as of the other operatives, *ib.* 2619-2629——The average time, including meals, is about fifteen hours, *ib.* 2620——The young people sometimes work for two or three days with slight intercession, *ib.* 2627, 2628——During the last twelve months the hours have not been so long, *ib.* 2631-2633——In the finishing department rollers are used, *ib.* 2638, 2639——Inability of witness and others to attend places of worship on Sunday on account of over-fatigue, *ib.* 2653-2657. 2716. 2774, 2775——There is generally pretty full work throughout the year, *ib.* 2776-2778.

Hours of labour at witness's lace works; the average time, including overwork, is from twelve to thirteen hours daily, and not fifteen hours, as stated by Bowley, *Harrison* 4957-4967. 4985-4989. 4999-5008. 5063. 5091, 5092——The hours have not been shortened of late in consequence of the expectation of legislation, *ib.* 4965-467——Explanation relative to a statement by Bowley that the long hours prevented his attendance at chapel on Sundays, *ib.* 4970-4975——Occasional pressure of work and scarcity of labour under which witness's establishment is at times obliged to work for unusually long hours, *ib.* 4976. 4997-5007. 5030. 5052-5056. 5122——The ordinary or regular time is nine and a half hours daily, *ib.* 4987-4989——Inaccuracy of Bowley's statement that the females have remained on the premises through the night and gone on working after a few hours' rest; Bowley himself has on a few occasions stayed all night at the works, *ib.* 4978-4981. 4995-4998.

Parents have not complained to witness about their children being overworked, and have not been threatened with loss of work if they took their children away, *Harrison* 4991. 4994. 5018-5022——Witness, as a lace-dresser, has nothing to do with bleaching,

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Harrison 5071-5073. 5129-5140——There are about thirty-two females at witness's works, and about a dozen men and boys, *ib.* 5082. 5083. 5148, 5149——The stiffening and clearing of the lace is mostly done by the females, standing or walking, *ib.* 5088-5090.

Stock of Goods. Obstacle to the cotton bleacher holding a quantity of stock or bleached goods on hand, *Barbour* 1997-2000. 2080-2082.

Stoves. From thirty to forty women are engaged in witness's stoves, *Leck* 3337——Nature of the employment in the stoves, *ib.* 3339-3341——The usual hours of labour in the stoves is from six in the morning till seven in the evening, but in busy times the women work till ten or eleven at night, *ib.* 3342-3348. 3367-3369. 3403-3406——Witness has seen several cases of fainting at the stoves, *ib.* 3350——Character of the ventilation of the stoves, *ib.* 3354-3358——Witness has frequently known the women to faint away in the stoves from excessive heat, *Thompson* 3503-3511. 3804-3813.

In the stoves in witness's establishment in Scotland men only are employed, *Boase* 3677. 3680——Recent erection by witness of a patent stove whereby the men are exempt from feeling the heat at so high a temperature, *ib.* 3677-3679. 3707——Doubt whether continuous employment of women in the stoves is very unhealthy, *ib.* 3707-3709.

Resting time given to the women at witness's stoves, near Lisburn, *Richardson* 3821, 3857. 3860, 3861. 3911——Diminished employment of women at the stoves in witness's works accordingly as machinery is increased, *ib.* 3829. 3858. 3907——Belief that working in the stoves in Ireland is not prejudicial to health, *ib.* 3867, 3868. 3913, 3914.

Statement that the employment in the stoves in the bleach works at Lisburn is decidedly a healthy occupation, though the temperature varies from 90 to 100 degrees, *Kelso* 4174-4193. 4205-4220. 4243-4249——Good character of the ventilation in the stoves at Lisburn, *ib.* 4220, 4221. 4256——Adult males only are employed in witness's stoves, and they only at intervals; high temperature in these stoves, *Kirk* 4578-4584. 4612, 4613. 4621-4625. 4661, 4662.

High temperature of the stoves in the linen bleach works on the east and west coasts of Scotland; the operatives, however, are engaged on these stoves only for short periods, the process not at all requiring continuous labour, *Tremenheere* 4732-4758.

As regards the drying stoves at witness's works the temperature seldom exceeds eighty degrees, and young females or boys are not employed in them when the steam is on, *Hardcastle* 5511-5513. 5517——There is a stove in witness's works, but women are not employed in it; when the others are in it the heat is not great, *Blair* 5841, 5842. 6229-6234——There are no women in the stoves at Halliwell, *Morris* 6387——When the people are in the stoves at Halliwell the heat is not oppressive, *ib.* 6388——Nature of the employment in the stoves at Messrs. Sykes & Co's.; the stovers are a very healthy class, *Southworth* 6884-6887. 6908.

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Stuff Warehouses, Bradford. Information relative to the mode of employment and hours of labour of the boys in the stuff warehouses in Bradford, *Ripley* 6020-9023.

See also *Bradford Dye Trade.*

Sumner, Dewhurst & Co. Reference to the firm of Dewhurst of Salford, under whom witness worked, as one which avoids overtime as much as possible, *Fletcher* 1641-1643. 1663-1665——Witness is a partner in the firm of Sumner, Dewhurst & Co., carrying on the Broughton dye and bleach works, near Salford, *Sagar* 2404, 2405——Class of goods operated upon at these works; there is no packing done, *ib.* 2406-2409——System of regular hours adopted at these works, *ib.* 2410-2414. 2423——Very favourable working, in many respects, of this system, which is attended with but few disadvantages, *ib.* 2415-2445——Larger share of work obtained in consequence of the system, *ib.* 2416-2418.

Sunday Labour. Instances of bleaching work on Sunday at Mr. Cross's, at Bolton, and at other places; this has not been so much the case of late years, *J. Waring* 383-393——Witness has heard that some mills at Bolton carry on bleaching, of necessity, on Sunday, *Robinson* 608-611——Mr. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, was very strict in not allowing Sunday work, *Milton* 1486. 1600; *Morris* 6404-6406——Witness has been told that at some places the men have worked on Sunday, *Milton* 1487-1490.

Explanation by Mr. Cross of a statement by John Waring, that he (Mr. Cross) worked on Sundays, *Blair* 5865, 5866——Mr. Cross explains that the only occasion of his working on Sunday was in the case of a Government order for some goods urgently required for the Crimea, *ib.*

Sykes & Co., Messrs. The works of Messrs. Sykes & Co., near Stockport, were not visited by Mr. Tremenheere, *Southworth* 6842, 6843——There are 206 persons employed at the works, none being under eleven years of age, *ib.* 6844-6849——The average hours are about ten a day, but sometimes extend to fifteen hours a day, *ib.* 6861, 6862——Large and lofty rooms in which the people work, *ib.* 6883——Inaccuracy of the evidence given by Richard Partington to Mr. Tremenheere, as to his hours of labour at Messrs. Sykes's, *ib.* 6894-6896——The operatives are very much employed together in families, *ib.* 6897.

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Tebbet, Mr. The hours at Mr. Tebbet's bleach-works at Old Baisford are now from six to six in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being rarely any over-time, *Betts* 2930, 2931. 2971–2975——Mr. Tebbet is one of the four local masters who have abided by an agreement entered into some years ago for shortening the hours of labour, *ib.* 2931–2933——Willingness of Mr. Tebbet that witness should attend the Committee, *ib.* 2954.

Temperature. Prejudice to health through the high temperature of some bleaching-rooms, *Tremenheere* 108. 172. 177–179——The temperature in the stoves in England varies from 90 to 120 degrees; it is sometimes higher, *ib.* 178——With regard to the bleaching and dyeing works of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire the temperature in the stoves is very high, and a large proportion of young persons are employed, *ib.* 214——In some parts of the bleaching process the temperature is very high, and is injurious to health, *Robinson* 567, 568.

Very high temperature of some of the rooms in which witness has worked at Mr. Budson's; diminution of the heat in the progressive room since the date of Mr. Tremenheere's inquiry, *Mather* 1300–1312. 1322——Employment of young females and boys from twelve to eighteen hours daily in rooms the temperature of which was from 100 to 150 degrees, *ib.* 1313–1328. 1338, 1339——The heat did not affect witness's health, *ib.* 1320——As far as high temperature is concerned, the same necessity does not exist for limiting the hours in a finishing-room as in a bleaching-room, *Fletcher* 1765–1771——Great heat occasionally of the packing-room at Halliwell, *Price* 1822–1824. 1906——The heat in the rooms at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's where the young females work varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and is very injurious to health, *Bowley* 2640–2645.

The general average of heat in Messrs. Young's work-rooms, near Paisley, varies from 90 to 110 degrees, *Gillroy* 3096–3099——The temperature of witness's stoves varies from 90 to 120 degrees, *Leck* 3338——Witness has occasionally known the temperature at 140 degrees in the stove-rooms at Paisley, *Thompson* 3503, 3504——The heat has been so great as to render the nails in the floor unbearable, unless by the women working in shoes or slippers, *ib.* 3505–3510.

The heat of witness's stoves is rarely above 90 degrees; the extreme heat is 100, *Richardson* 3865——Ample ventilation in the stoves at Glenmore works; degrees of heat in this department adverted to hereon, *O'Brien* 4037. 4040–4042. 4079–4096 —— Temperature of witness's lace dressing-rooms; it varies from 65 to 84 degrees, the average heat being about 75 degrees, *Harrison* 4955, 4956. 5015, 5016. 5049–5051. 5074–5077. 5084–5087.

The temperature in witness's rooms is about 70 degrees, *John Burton* 5170——The temperature of witness's rooms is at a comfortable heat, *Allcock* 5312——Good ventilation and moderate temperature of witness's rooms where the young persons are employed, *Blair* 5846——Measures adopted at witness's works in order to provide for ventilation and a moderate temperature in the rooms, *Ripley* 5879, 5880. 5896–5898.

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Ten Hours' Bill. See *Factory Act. Hours of Labour*, II. *Legislative Interference.*

Thompson, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Messrs. Brown's bleaching-works at Burnbank, near Paisley; was till lately engaged in the establishment of Messrs. Wallace & Son, 3423–3430. 3476–3478——There were about one hundred persons at Messrs. Wallace's establishment, of whom between thirty and forty were women; there were only a few children, 3431–3433——Very long hours of labour occasionally in Messrs. Wallace's establishment, 3434–3438. 3543–3546——Great fatigue and injury to health consequent upon the long hours of labour, 3439. 3497, 3498. 3541, 3542. 3547–3550.

Inability at times of the operative to do the proper quantity of work on account of the fatigue, 3439, 3440——Practicability of carrying on the trade by extending the works under a system of regular hours, 3441–3444——Witness is in favour of legislative interference for reducing the hours of labour, 3445. 3472–3474. 3555——Remarks on the bleaching and dyeing respectively of woollen and cotton goods; expediency of applying legislation to woollen bleaching, 3446–3459.

Belief that the masters generally in the west of Scotland are favourable to legislative interference, 3460–3466. 3470–3475——Witness can give no information relative to the woman's house attached to Messrs. Hamilton's works near Paisley, 3480–3483. 3512–3517——Information relative to and condemnatory of the woman's house attached to Messrs. Wallace's works, 3484–3502. 3518–3526. 3534–3537——Proof of the great and injurious heat at times in the stove-rooms, 3503–3511.

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Reference to a woman's house at Messrs. Cochrane's, at Barr Head, near Paisley where the Irish and Scotch women sometimes have had quarrels, 3527-3533——Circumstance of a system of regular hours having been voluntarily adopted in the lapping-rooms about two years ago, and having worked exceedingly well, 3537-3540. 3551-3554——Less injury to health if the work were limited to sixty-six hours weekly, 3547-3550.

[Second Examination.]—Witness has frequently known the women to faint away in the stoves from the excessive heat, 3804-3813.

Trade. See *Competition. Extension of Trade. Factory Act. Foreign Competition. Foreign Orders. Hours of Labour*, II. *Legislative Interference. Merchants and Commission Agents. Prices. Pushes.*

Tremenheere, Hugh Seymour. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was appointed in 1854 as Commissioner to examine and report upon the bleaching and dyeing works, 1. 15——Completed his inquiries about the end of March 1855 and reported on 7 June 1855, since which time he has not paid any further attention to the subject, 2-12——Particulars as to the mode in which witness conducted his inquiries; sufficiency of the data for the conclusions and recommendations in his report, 13 *et seq.*

Witness visited several bleach-works; in some of them he did not stay more than a few hours, 13-20——He took evidence from a considerable number of workpeople, and had such evidence confirmed by reading it over to the person in charge of each establishment at the time, 19-24——In a great majority of instances complaint was made that the overwork and hours were excessive, 25-29.

Witness commenced his inquiry by taking evidence from a committee of operatives who had been promoting the movement, 33, 34. 42-47. 141, 142——He subsequently had frequent communication with Mr. Ainsworth and other masters, 34, 35——He visited, altogether, twenty-seven establishments in Lancashire and Cheshire; names of some of these, 35. 37. 79, 80——He examined several of the masters, 36. 38.

In most of the works witness found several very young children, 48-52——The children complained of the long hours of work and that their health was affected thereby, 52-54——Unhealthy appearance of a considerable number of the children in the finishing department, 55. 110, 111. 172, 173——Concurrence of masters and workmen as to the propriety of legislative interference on account of the long hours of work, 56-60. 134, 135——Reference to petitions signed by the clergymen and medical men of Manchester, Salford, and Bolton, praying for legislative interference on account of the overwork, 61-70. 170——Witness examined some medical men at Bolton, who testified to the effect of overwork in bringing on complaints, 65-69. 107. 169, 170.

Desire expressed by the bleachers for a ten hours' Bill, as in factories, 71, 72——Complaint made that the overwork was a bar to mental improvement, and that in such respect the factory operatives were better off, 73-78——Assurance given by the men that certain processes might be postponed for completion, 81-83——The complaints had reference chiefly to the finishing work in-doors, 84-86. 167. 172, 173. 196——Open-air bleaching or finishing has been abandoned in Lancashire and Cheshire, 87. 198, 199.

Conclusion that the women and children are frequently overworked, 88-94——In consequence of the fluctuation in the demand for labour the bleachers occasionally work for thirteen or fourteen hours, or even longer, and occasionally for less than ten hours, 92-100——Consideration of the fluctuating demands of the trade upon which the masters argue that the labour must, of necessity, fluctuate in a like degree; belief that with improved arrangements the contingencies both of the foreign and the home trade may be met without the present amount of occasional overwork, 100-106. 122-166.

Feeling of a majority of ten out of fourteen merchants at Manchester, as distinct from the master bleachers, that overwork, as now practised, might be avoided; the merchants thus consulted by witness were named to him by the masters, 106. 123-133. 145-158——Prejudice to health through the high temperature of some bleaching-rooms, 108. 172. 177-179——Evidence in support of the statement that the children and young females suffer in health through the occasional overwork, even though at times they may work for less than ten hours daily, 110-121. 167-182.

The masters concurred generally in the accuracy of the statements first submitted to witness by the committee of operatives, 136——The merchants concurred generally in the opinion that legislation was necessary, 137-140——Complaint was made by the master-bleachers that the occasional overflow of work was thrust upon them, and was disadvantegeous to them, 155——Impression that some masters concurred in the views of the merchants that the evil of overwork might be avoided, 164——Introduction of new machinery adverted to as a means of preventing overtime, 164-166.

Healthy appearance of the adults in the bleaching department, but not of those in the finishing department, 167. 171, 172. 180-182——It transpired that many of the children were obliged to discontinue work through ill-health, 167. 174, 175. 191——Average temperature in the bleaching stoves, 178, 179——Witness's evidence hitherto has been

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been confined to Lancashire and Cheshire, 184——With regard to woollen dyeing work, his inquiries showed that the employment is healthy, and that there is not the same necessity for legislation as in the case of the Lancashire and Cheshire bleaching works, 185-189.

Grounds for the conclusion that it is not expedient to provide by legislation for the education of children employed in bleaching works, 200–211——Approval of the principle of the Print Works Act being applied to the education of boys working in collieries between the ages of ten and fourteen, 203–205——Satisfactory operation of the education clauses of the Factory Act, 207, 208——If education clauses could be made applicable without serious inconvenience to children in bleaching works, witness would fully approve of them, 209–213.

With regard to the bleaching and dyeing works of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, the temperature in the stoves is very high, and a large proportion of young persons are employed, 214.

[Second Examination.] Exception taken to a statement by Dr. Boase (*Q.* 3629, 3630) that, as regards the east of Scotland, witness's report only gave a general idea of the state of things, and did not go sufficiently into particulars, 4720–4722——Instances of deviations in Scotland from arrangements in regard to not working overtime, 4722. 4756. 4885–4888——Remarks in confirmation of the evidence given before witness by Mr. Daniel Forbes, as to operatives in the beetling-rooms falling down and going to sleep, 4722.

As regards the non-examination by witness of any operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he considered that his investigations in Lancashire and the west coast of Scotland already established a case for legislation with respect to boys and females, 4723–4761——High temperature in the stoves in the linen bleach-works on the east and west coasts of Scotland; the operatives, however, are engaged in these stoves only for short periods, the process not at all requiring continuous labour, 4732–4758.

Explanation as to witness, before entering on his inquiries, not having considered it necessary either to frame any formal set of questions, or to include in his report the actual questions put, as well as the evidence in reply, 4762–4766. 4773–4775. 4795, 4796——Explanation as to witness having, in questioning Mr. Alexander Hunter of Dunmurry, led him to infer that there was to be an Act for England and Scotland, 4766–4772——Way in which witness took down the evidence of the masters and the men; opportunity given to them to correct or object to any statement which he had recorded, 4773–4775. 4791–4793. 4850. 4852.

For the same reasons that witness did not consider it necessary to examine the operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he did not deem it essential to examine the operatives in Ireland, 4776–4781——Distinction between the lapping-rooms in Ireland and the warehouses in Manchester, as regards the propriety of legislative interference, 4782–4790.

As regards the way in which witness reported his conversation with Mr. Alexander Hunter, no complaint has been made by Mr. Hunter on the subject, 4791–4794——The only objection made by any person to witness's version of his evidence was an objection of a friendly nature by Dr. Boase, 4794——Reference to a discrepancy in witness's remarks upon the evidence of Mr. Richardson as to dispensing with overtime in the case of females, 4797.

Before witness attended the operatives' committee in Lancashire he had some slight communication with one or two of the masters, 4798——With two or three exceptions, the operatives' delegates in communication with witness were at the time employed in bleach-works, 4799——Exception taken to the term "agitators," as applied to the witnesses Warings and Pearce, delegates of the men, 4800–4802. 4870–4875——Statement as to witness having visited ten establishments not on the list given him by Mr. Ainsworth on the part of the masters; the evidence obtained thereat was in contradiction of that supplied by the masters, 4804–4807——Every facility in visiting the works was afforded by the masters, 4808.

Witness had frequent communication with the delegates between his visits to the bleach-works, 4809–4811——Explanation as to a meeting between witness and the committee of masters, in order to discuss in a friendly spirit the point of legislation; the masters, however, seemed inclined to dispute the necessity for legislation altogether, and witness did not therefore seek any other meeting with them, 4812–4816——Statement as to Mr. Hardcastle having, in the first instance, proposed a certain basis of legislation, and having subsequently repudiated what he had proposed, 4813, 4814. 4926–4934.

A tendency to shorter hours does not obviate the expediency of guarding against excessive work occasionally, 4817, 4818——The occurrence of intervals of rest in addition to the hours of meals does not justify the employment of boys and young females for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, 4819, 4820——Variations in the amount of the masters' work are no doubt very great, 4821–4824. 4854–4857——The objections raised by witness, as regards the ill effects upon the health of the boys and young females, apply to the excessive

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excessive hours of labour rather than to the atmosphere in which they work, 4824-4828. 4858-4860. 4876-4882. 4900-4916.

Probable respectability of the operative bleachers as a class, 4829-4831——Necessity of healthy constitutions in order to stand the long hours of labour, 4832. 4834——Many masters have doubtless largely exerted themselves for the religious and intellectual improvement of their workpeople, 4833——Further reference to the unhealthy appearance presented by many of the female operatives in the hot stoves, &c., 4835-4840. 4876-4878——As regards the operations carried on in Manchester warehouses, it was not witness's province to make any inquiry into their effect upon the health of those employed therein, 4843-4849. 4851——Explanation as to the evidence of Mr. John Pender relative to his warehouse not having been read over to him, 4853——Further statement as to the merchants having stated that the present overtime in the bleach-works was not necessary for the proper conduct of the trade, 4854-4857.

It cannot be defended as consistent with the health and morals of boys and young females that they should work for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, 4858-4860——Expediency of attempting to legislate separately for bleaching and dyeing works without reference in the same Bill to Manchester warehouses, &c., 4861-4864——Before entering on the inquiry witness knew nothing about the bleaching population, and was not aware of the system of excessive overtime, 4865-4867——Before inquiring as to the means of remedy witness's duty was first to inquire into the existence and nature of the evil, 4868, 4869——There is nothing less honourable in the operatives having their paid delegates than in the masters having numerous paid agents to watch the proceedings before the Committee, &c., 4870-4875.

Objections made to the hours of labour by many of the workpeople not employed in the stoves, 4883, 4884——Though labour in all bleaching works should be limited to ten hours daily, it would be difficult and impolitic to extend such restriction to domestic employment or private trades, though involving probably very long hours of labour and injury to health, 4889-4935——Objection to confining legislation to those departments in bleaching and dyeing in which the atmosphere or the processes are injurious to health, 4900-4913.

Explanation as to witness having suggested in his report, that in the case of linen-bleaching, labour after the prescribed time should be allowed in the event of work being interrupted by the weather; how this might be provided for, 4934-4949——In the case of cotton-works, witness suggests that there be some provision for making up time lost by the breakage of machinery, 4935. 4949.

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Truck System. Circumstance of the objectionable truck system having been in practice some time since in connexion with the works at Halliwell, *Milton* 1603.

U.

United States. Successful competition in bleaching on the part of the United States, *Hardcastle* 5663. 5680——Hours of labour in the bleach-works in the United States, *ib.* 5681-5684.

V.

Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour. Communication between the operatives' committee and the masters in Lancashire and Cheshire in 1853 and 1854, with a view to a voluntary settlement of the hours of labour; failure thereof, *J. Waring* 230-259——Circumstance of five masters having expressed their willingness to alter the hours if the rest of the trade would do so, which, however, they thought could not be effected without legislative interference, *ib.* 238-251.

System of regular hours adopted by witness's firm; its advantages on the whole, *Sagur* 2415-2445——Witness's firm avoid "pushes" by taking only so much work as they can do in the regulated time; loss on this score, *ib.* 2419-2422. 2435-2444.

Utter inefficiency of a voluntary system of short hours, *Crook* 2493-2498——Reference to a union formed by the workpeople in the Old Baisford district, about five years ago, not to work beyond certain hours; of all the masters, only Mr. Burton and one other have continued to abide by the hours then agreed upon, *Shelbourne* 2807-2814——Further reference to the union at Baisford, by which, for four or five years, the hours were regulated, and general satisfaction given, *ib.* 2854-2869. 2876-2890——Departure by the masters at Paisley from an arrangement in force at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's visit, not to work more than sixty-six hours in a week, *Gilbroy* 3111-3115. 3129-2134.

Witness drew up a memorial to the master bleachers of the west of Scotland on the part of the men in 1853, relative to the time of labour, *Lockure* 3324-3328——Subse-

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quently to 1853 an arrangement was promised, reducing the time of labour to sixty-six hours weekly; this does not seem to have been permanent, *Lockure* 3329-3331——The violation of agreements to work regular time proves the necessity of legislation, *Thompson* 3472-3475——Circumstance of a system of regular hours having been voluntarily adopted in the lapping-rooms near Paisley, about two years ago, and having worked exceedingly well, *ib.* 3537-3540. 3551-3554——System of regular hours adopted by witness and other firms in Fifeshire, Forfarshire, and Aberdeenshire; particulars hereon showing that the hours are not too long, *Drimmimie* 3566-3581. 3587. 3606-3610.

Instances of deviations in Scotland from arrangements in regard to not working overtime, *Tremenheere* 4722. 4756——In the west of Scotland there was an arrangement between the masters and men for doing away with long hours, but it did not continue, *ib.* 4885-4888.

The ordinary hours of labour of the men employed by witness are from six to six, and of the women from seven to seven, two hours being allowed for meals, *John Burton* 5157-5160——The hours of the adults are sometimes extended till nine in the evening, and are paid for as overhours, 5161-5167——Explanation relative to the arrangement about the hours of ordinary labour, and about overhours, and prices which were in operation between witness's firm and their men, and between several other masters and their men, at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's inquiry, *ib.* 5173 *et seq.*——The present practice as regards hours of labour at witness's establishments may be considered similar to that in force during Mr. Tremenheere's visit, *ib.* 5175-5178. 5190. 5206, 5207.

Absence of difficulty to witness's firm and others in carrying on their business under the arrangement limiting the hours, including overtime, from six to eight or nine, *John Burton* 5179-5192. 5225-5230. 5246-5248——The hours of the younger children are generally limited to six in the evening, witness objecting to their working for a longer time than ten hours, *ib.* 5198-5203. 5249-5251. 5289-5294——Voluntary character of the former arrangement between some of the masters and their men at Nottingham, as to overtime and prices; difficulty in the adoption generally of any voluntary arrangement, *ib.* 5233-5240. 5244. 5246, 5247. 5267-5273——Belief that it would be better for both masters and men if, including overtime, the hours could by arrangement be limited to from six to nine, *ib.* 5242, 5243.

The regular hours of labour at witness's works are from six to seven in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being occasionally overtime to the extent of not more than two hours, *Allcock* 5304-5307. 5338. 5339——Witness was one of the masters who entered into the voluntary arrangement proposed by the men in regard to overtime and prices; he still abides by it, *ib.* 5317-5322. 5332-5335.

Advantage of a voluntary arrangement of the hours of labour rather than of legislative interference, *Rylands* 6601, 6602. 6616-6619; *Marsland* 6818, 6819——Much greater advantage of a voluntary arrangement for reducing the hours in bleach-works and warehouses than of a legislative enactment; practicability of such an arrangement, from which however there must be occasional deviation, *Pender* 7150-7164. 7203-7205. 7207, 7208. 7232——The instances of injuriously long hours reported by Mr. Tremenheere are exceptional occurrences, the remedy of which had better be left to voluntary action than to compulsory enactment, *ib.* 7237-7249.

See also *Sumner, Dewhurst & Co.* *Tebbett, Mr.*

W.

Wages:

1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System.*
2. *Probable Earnings if the Hours of Labour be restricted.*

1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System:*

A bleacher sometimes may earn 30*s.* a week and sometimes not 15*s.*, *H. Waring* 1048. 1132——Larger earnings of bleachers during times of pressure than of factory operatives, *Milton* 1502-1504——Doubt as to the wages of young persons in bleach-works being better than of those in cotton mills, *Fletcher* 1706-1709——Two sons of witness, when twelve years old, each earned about 4*s.* a week, *Price* 1884-1886.

Wages of the young females at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's; irrespective of overtime, they get about 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, *Bowley* 2670-2677. 2700-2715. 2753-2763——Nine hours and a half, that is, from eight till seven o'clock, less time for meals, constitute a day's work at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's, *ib.* 2678-2686——Witness's wages are 3*s.* a day; increase if he work from eight in the morning till twelve at night, *ib.* 2687-2690. 2700——The wages of the men at Nottingham vary very much, according to their capabilities for work, *ib.* 2747-2752.

The women at Mr. Burton's, of Old Baisford, earn about 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week, *Sherbourne* 2870-2875——The boys earn from 4*s.* 6*d.* a week upwards, *ib.* 2872.

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1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System*—continued.

Better wages of bleaching operatives than of agricultural labourers, *Kirk* 4592. 4626-4629; *Allcock* 5329-5331. 5336-5339; *Hardcastle* 5544-5546. 5570-5575.

The women, above seventeen years of age, in witness's employment, earn from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week, *Harrison* 4968, 4969. 5012. 5123-5126——Earnings and hours of labour of the girls under seventeen years of age; the lowest weekly earnings are 3*s.*, but, including overtime, the earnings of the girls are about 4*s.* 6*d.* a week, *ib.* 4982-4990. 5011-5014. 5097-5107. 5114, 5115——Varying earnings of the men in witness's employment, *ib.* 5127, 5128.

Explanation as to the wages earned at witness's works; the piecework system is almost exclusively adopted, and the prices have been the same since 1830, a fair day's wages being now earned in about seven hours and a half, *Hardcastle* 5482-5500. 5537-5540——Advantage to the workpeople in the continuance of the system adopted by witness in 1830, *ib.* 5540.

System of payment adopted by witness as affected by the hours of labour; practice to pay for ten hours as a day's work, six hours counting for a day on Saturday, *Ripley* 5888-5894. 6054-6059. 6075-6096——During the last twelve months the earnings of witness's men have averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* a day, and of the women 1*s.* 10*d.* a day, *Blair* 6033——Opportunity at witness's works, under the system of piecework, for earning several days' wages in one day; particulars hereon, *J. Slater* 6278-6280. 6285-6297——Wages of the females at Halliwell works, *Morris* 6347-6349——System of payment by piecework at Halliwell; explanation hereon as to the earnings under the system, *ib.* 6350, 6351. 6368-6371——System of payment by the piece at Messrs. Sykes's works; good earnings occasionally, *Southworth* 6869-6872.

2. *Probable Earnings if the Hours of Labour be restricted:*

Witness told the Irish operatives that if the hours of labour were reduced their wages would be more, as was the case with the factory operatives; further expression of this opinion, *J. Waring* 431, 432——With the English operatives it is not a question of wages, *ib.* 432——Probability of equally good wages if the hours were reduced, *Crook* 2559-2561——Effect of free trade in giving an impetus to wages, *ib.* 2562-2563. 2603-2609.

Impression that the men would be willing to give up the extra wages if the extra hours were given up, *Shelbourne* 2912-2914——Probability of lower earnings if there be no overtime; willingness of the operatives to make this sacrifice, *Betts* 2978-2999——How far a system of ten or ten hours and a half daily might reduce the earnings of witness's workpeople, *Lech* 3361. 3371-3373. 3399-3422——Advance in the wages of women near Lisburn when the stoves were first opened by witness's firm; tendency to decreased wages as the number employed decreases, *Richardson* 3829. 3862-3864.

Apprehended diminution of earnings if the hours of labour be restricted, *M'Comb* 3929-3933. 3949, 3950. 3962-3968; *Henchy* 4484, 4485; *Allcock* 5313-5315; *Hardcastle* 5802, 5803; *Ripley* 5886. 6000-6002; *Pender* 7183-7185. 7245; *James Burton* 7264——Interference in Ireland with the labour of the women only would not affect the men's wages, *M'Comb* 3973, 3974——Question as to the effect upon wages if the employment of females and boys should cease or greatly diminish, *O'Brien* 4131-4142. 4158, 4159——Injury to the men if they cannot make up in busy times for the short labour in slack seasons, *Keely* 5356. 5362, 5363.

See also *Piecework.*

Wallace, William, & Son. Witness was till lately engaged in the establishment of Messrs. William Wallace & Son, of Paisley, *Thompson* 3425, 3426——There were about 100 persons at Messrs. Wallace's establishment, of whom between thirty and forty were women; there were only a few children, *ib.* 3431-3433——Very long hours of labour occasionally in Messrs. Wallace's establishment, *ib.* 3434-3438. 3443-3446——Great fatigue and injury to health consequent upon the long hours, *ib.* 3439. 3497, 3498. 3541, 3542. 3547-3550——Inability at times for the operatives to do the proper quantity of work on account of over-fatigue, *ib.* 3439, 3440——The workpeople used frequently to lie in bed the greater part of Sunday on account of the overwork, *ib.* 3497, 3498. 3541, 3542——Proof of the great and injurious heat at times in the stove-rooms, *ib.* 3503-3511. 3804-3813.——*See* also *Women's Houses.*

Warehouses. A good deal of finishing is now being done in some warehouses in Manchester, and it is essential that all finishing establishments be brought under the regulations of the Bill, *Fletcher* 1670-1678. 1730-1732. 1758-1780. 1790-1810——The Act should, in fact, apply to all places where bleaching, dyeing, or finishing is carried on, *ib.* 1674. 1678. 1760-1764.

Particulars as to the packing, &c. carried on in witness's establishment, and in the establishments of other merchants at Manchester; inexpediency of legislative interference with the hours of labour in these departments, the employment differing very much from

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the employment differing very much from the employment in bleach-works, *Barbour* 1970–1983. 1986. 2037–2054. 2092–2099——Distinction to be drawn between the calenderer and the packer-up in Manchester as regards legislative interference, *Scott* 2269–2275——The Manchester warehouseman does not require legislative interference with the hours of labour, *ib.* 2272–2275.

Distinction between the lapping-rooms in Ireland and warehouses in Manchester, as regards the propriety of legislative interference, *Tremenheere* 4782–4790——As regards the operations carried on in Manchester warehouses, it was not witness's province to make any inquiry into the effect upon the health of those employed therein, *ib.* 4843–4849. 4851—— Expediency of attempting to legislate separately for bleaching and dyeing works without reference in the same Bill to Manchester warehouses, *ib.* 4861–4864.

Impropriety of Bill No. 2 exempting operations in the finishing warehouses at Manchester whilst it controls similar operations in witness's works, *Hardcastle* 5459–5462 ——Less robust persons required in bleach-works than in the callender houses and packing-up rooms in Manchester, *ib.* 5526. 5527——Impropriety of applying the proposed restrictions to bleaching, including calendering and making-up, without at the same time applying them to warehouses in Manchester, where calendering and making-up are done, *Blair* 6045–6050. 6146–6170.

Varying hours of labour in witness's warehouse; impracticability of making them uniform, *Rylands*, 6512–6518——Witness employs about 120 people in the warehouse, whose ages are from thirteen, upwards, *Pender* 7126, 7127——The average hours are about ten a day, but they necessarily are somewhat irregular, *ib.* 7128, 7129——The wages are based upon a system of piecework as an inducement to the men to shorten the hours as much as possible, *ib.* 7129——The work is carried on in large airy rooms, *ib.* 7130—— Character of the education of the men and boys, *ib.* 7131.

Evidence strongly opposed to any restriction upon the hours of labour in the Manchester warehouses, as in the bleach-works, *Pender* 7132 *et seq.*——Injustice to the bleachers if the operations of finishing, &c. carried on in Manchester warehouses continue to be exempt from all restriction, *ib.* 7186–7191——Witness's people never complain of the hours, *ib.* 7187——Beginning of the end of the Manchester trade if the warehouses be put under the proposed restrictions, *ib.* 7190.

Objection to interference with the hours in the Manchester packing-up warehouses, *James Burton* 7271, 7272.

See also *Charlton, Robert, & Son. Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Finishing Departments. Packing Departments. Stuff Warehouses.*

Waring, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has worked as a bleacher for forty-two years, 881, 883——Was turned off by Mr. Slater about three years ago as being too old, 883–885——Worked for Mr. Slater's, near Bolton, for thirty-eight years, 886, 887—— Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, which evidence is equally applicable to the present state of things, 888–891.

About forty years ago, nearly all the bleaching was done in the open air, 892–895—— Explanation of the several processes in bleaching cotton goods, 896–919——Practicability, with due care, of suspending work during the processes without injury to the goods, 920–922——Witness was foreman for fourteen years under Mr. Cocker, of Bolton, 922–924 ——Particulars as to the very long hours of labour in bleach-works, as shown by witness's own experience, 925. 933 *et seq.*

Helpless position of the men in regard to overwork, which, if they refuse to do, they are at once dismissed, 925–929——Shorter hours of labour many years ago, when the work was carried on in the fields, 930–932. 981–984——Since the bleaching has been done under cover, that is, for the last forty years or so, the master has worked the man, like a piece of machinery, in proportion to the quantity of work on hand, 933–969.

During the last ten years there has been some little amendment in the hours of labour, 938, 939——Long and continuous labour of boys and girls; illustration in the case of witness's own children, 940–949. 993–1040——Witness has known his wife to work for a week without taking off her clothes, or going to bed; this was many years ago, 949–952. 1005–1014——The work and the labour have been rather slack of late, but even now in some of the finishing departments the labour, both of young and adults, extends to fourteen or sixteen hours daily, 953–969.

Physical depreciation consequent upon the long hours of labour, 970–972——Totally uneducated state of the great majority of the bleachers and of their children, 972, 973. 1049–1073. 1160–1172——Illustration of the want of religious instruction among bleachers and their children, 973, 974. 1142–1150. 1171, 1172——Bar to education on account of the long hours of labour, 974. 1066–1069. 1122–1130——Further reference to the circumstance of witness having been dismissed from Mr. Slater's employment on the ground of his age; he was then about sixty-two years old, 976–978. 1192–1194.

Ordinary hours of work when there are no "pushes," 979——It is only when there are pushes that the labour is so unduly long, 980. 1067——Circumstance of the work having

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Waring Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

having been regulated thirty years ago without great fluctuations in the hours of labour, 981-984——Bad effects occasionally produced upon the work, through the men being so thoroughly fatigued as not to be able to attend to it, 985-992.

Ages of the boys and young females who work occasionally for sixteen hours daily; the boys are sometimes only nine years old, 993-1004——Long hours for which a daughter of witness, who is about twenty-two years old, is employed, entailing the necessity of her constantly returning home late at night, 1018-1027. 1032-1040——Good health generally of witness and his wife, 1041-1047——Wages of witness adverted to in connexion with the circumstance of his not having educated his children, 1048-1052. 1057, 1058. 1131-1141.

Witness is father of John Waring, the delegate of the working men, 1053——Children should not be employed in the bleaching works till they were twelve or thirteen years of age, 1059. 1083-1089——Question as to the parents being blameable for not sending their children to school; how far there is at Bolton opportunity to do so, 1060-1072. 1131-1172——There is more education than there used to be, 1072, 1073. 1117.

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Women. See *Adult Labour. Commission of Inquiry. Employment. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Linen-Bleaching. Operatives. Stoves. Wages.*

Women's Houses. Particulars relative to the "women's house," at Blackland Mill, Paisley, erected by Messrs. Hamilton, and attached to their works, as a means of lodging the women and young females close to the works, instead of their going all the way to Paisley and back again; recommended inspection or control over these houses, with a view

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view to their proper conduct, *Richmond* 3176-3186. 3227-3252——The women's house at Blackland Mill was frequently much over-crowded, and was very injurious to health, but has since been somewhat remedied, *ib.* 3178-3181. 3240-3243——The erection of the women's house was dictated by motives of humanity on the part of Messrs. Hamilton, *ib.* 3182. 3227-3230. 3237, 3238.

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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

RATING OF MINES;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
5 *August* 1857.

241—Sess. 2.

Veneris, 6° die Februarii, 1857.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Law and Practice with respect to the Rating of Mines.

Martis, 10° die Februarii, 1857.

Ordered, That such Committee do consist of Seventeen Members.

Committee nominated accordingly, as follows:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. George Cavendish.
Mr. Deedes.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Hutchins.	Mr. Ridley.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Spooner.
Viscount Monck.	Mr. Littleton.
Mr. Hussey Vivian.	Mr. Henry Herbert.
Mr. Hume.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Michael Williams.	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

SECOND SESSION, 1857.

Sabbati, 16° die Maii, 1857.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Law and Practice with respect to the Rating of Royalties of Mines.

Lunæ, 18° die Maii, 1857.

Ordered, That the Select Committee on Rating of Mines do consist of Sixteen Members:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Michael Williams.
Mr. George Cavendish.	Mr. Child.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Philipps.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. Hume.	Mr. Henry Herbert.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. William Orme Foster.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Dudley Fortescue.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Mercurii, 22° die Julii, 1857.

Ordered, That that the Minutes of Evidence, taken before the Select Committee on Rating of Mines in the last Session of Parliament, and presented and laid on the Table 21st day of July instant, be referred to the Select Committee.

Mercurii, 5° die Augusti, 1857.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Law and Practice with respect to the RATING of ROYALTIES of MINES, and who were empowered to Report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

THAT Your Committee have taken Evidence on the subject referred to them from all parts of the country. This Evidence has shown that the liability of Mines to be rated to the poor and other parochial rates is full of anomalies, and (except in the case of Coal Mines) depends more on the form of agreement between the lessor and lessee than on any general rule of rateability.

Although Mines (other than Coal Mines) are not as such rateable, yet, where the royalty or due is reserved in kind, it is held to be rateable on the legal principle, that the lord who receives it is an occupier of land, and as such is subject to be rated for his occupation under the Statute of the 43d of Elizabeth. The reservation of royalties in kind appears, from the Evidence, to be still the practice in Derbyshire, and in some districts of Cornwall, and to have been the universal practice in Cornwall till the year 1832.

Where the Royalty is reserved in the shape of a money payment, such liability is held not to exist.

Open Mineral Workings, Quarries, and Coal Mines are deemed to be rateable, and are rated, in all cases.

Your Committee is of opinion, that there are no valid grounds for these distinctions.

That so long as Coal Mines, and open Mineral Workings, and Quarries are assessed to the different local rates, Your Committee see no reason why the rating should not be extended to all other Mines.

That open Mineral Workings, or Quarries, and Close Mines should, as far as rating is concerned, be placed on the same footing.

That Evidence has been given of peculiar customs existing in Derbyshire, and that the lord's dues, arising from Lead Mines in that county, are taken in kind, and are assessed both to the poor and highway rates.

That it has been contended with great force before Your Committee, that in the assessment of Mines the principle should be recognised, that the working of a Mine, of whatever description, is the using up of the corpus of the estate, and not of the mere annual produce capable of reproduction.

That in making the assessment on Mineral Property, of whatever description, all plant and machinery, locomotive or stationary, in any way connected with or belonging to the Mines, and which is incidental and necessary to the working thereof, should be assessed as a whole, together with and as part of the Mine, and not separately.

5 *August* 1857.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Lunæ, 16° *die Februarii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Deedes.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Hume.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Philipps.

Mr. KENDALL called to the Chair.

The Committee considered future course of proceedings.

[Adjourned to Thursday, 26 February, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 26° *die Februarii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Hume.
Mr. Phillips.	

Mr. *Thomas Sopwith* examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 3° *die Martii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Child.
Mr. Spooner.	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, 24 March, at Twelve o'clock.

SECOND SESSION, 1857.

Veneris, 22° *die Maii*, 1857.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Hume.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Williams.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Foster.	

Mr. KENDALL was called to the Chair.

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, 9 June, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 9° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Vivian.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Williams.	

Mr. *R. W. Bainbridge* and Mr. *C. Lonsdale Bradley* examined.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 12° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Vivian.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Williams.
Mr. Cavendish.	

Rev. *R. H. Jackson* and Mr. *William Price Struvé* examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 16° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Davey.	Mr. Child.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Vivian.
Mr. Williams.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Philipps.	Mr. W. O. Foster.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Ridley.
Colonel Pennant.	

Mr. *John*, Mr. *W. James* and Mr. *W. Llewellyn* examined.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 19° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Williams.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Child.

Mr. *Samuel Dobson*, Mr. *Thomas Powell*, Mr. *William Menelaus*, and Mr. *John Nixon* examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 23° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. F. Hume.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Vivian.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. G. Cavendish.	Mr. M. Williams.

Petition of *Thomas Dalby Jago* (presented 17th June, and referred to the Select Committee),—read.

Mr. *William Currey*, Mr. *Henry W. Schneider*, a Member of the House, Mr. *Thomas Roper*, Mr. *Stephen Eady*, and Mr. *Rees Rhys* examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 25° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. M. Williams.	

Mr. *William Mathews*, Mr. *Richard Smith*, and Mr. *Thomas Wynne* examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 30° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Child.	Mr. Foster.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Williams.
Mr. Colvile.	

Mr. *John Lewis Ricardo*, a Member of the House, Mr. *Thomas Weston*, Mr. *George Baker*, Mr. *Thomas Cope*, Mr. *John Higginbottom*, and Mr. *Enoch Wedgwood* examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 2° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Child.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Spooner.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Foster.

Mr. *G. Wheeldon*, Mr. *H. Williamson*, Mr. *Robert Heath*, and Mr. *Frederick Wragge* examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 7° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Davey.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Bouverie
Mr. Child.	Mr. W. O. Foster.

Mr. *James M'Intyre*, Mr. *Joseph Lowndes*, and Mr. *Ralph Hale*, examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 9° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Colvile.	

Rev. *John P. Berkeley*, Mr. *Henry Higman*, and Mr. *Edward Stocker*, examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 14° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Davey.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. M. Williams.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Vivian.	

Mr. *Warrington Smyths*, Mr. *Joseph Pease*, Mr. *Thos. E. Forster*, Mr. *Thos. John Taylor*, and Mr. *Wm. Dickenson*, examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 16° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Davey.	Mr. M. Williams.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. D. Fortescue.
Mr. Colvile.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Child.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Foster.	

Mr. *Geo. Simpson*, Mr. *Joseph Fisher*, Mr. *Jacob Henry Cotterell*, and Mr. *James S. Randell*, examined.

[Adjourned to Monday, at Two o'clock, to consider further Proceedings.

Lunæ, 20° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL, in the Chair.

Mr. Child.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Dudley Fortescue.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. H. Vivian.	Mr. W. O. Foster.
Mr. M. Williams.	Mr. Hume.
Mr. Cavendish.	Col. Pennant.
Mr. Ridley.	

Committee deliberated.

Evidence of the Select Committee taken in the last Session, and referred to this Committee, read.—Ordered to be printed, with the Evidence.

[Adjourned to Thursday, the 30th, at Twelve o'clock, to consider Report.

Jovis, 30° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL, in the Chair.

Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. M. Williams.
Col. D. Pennant.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. D. Fortescue.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Philipps.

Report proposed by Chairman, read 1°, as follows:

"1. That, with the exception of coal mines, the liability of mines to be rated to the poor depends on the form of agreement between lessor and lessee, as to the mode of fixing the rent or royalty to be paid, and is, therefore, founded on no just principle of law.

"2. That the liability of open mines to be rated to the relief of the poor, and the almost general exemption of close mines (excepting coal mines) from that liability, although the latter may be in the immediate vicinity of the former, and possibly the mineral worked be the same, is an anomaly which ought not to exist.

"3. That no satisfactory evidence has been offered to show why coal mines should be assessed to, and other close mines exempt from, the poor, county, and highway rates.

"4. That in cases where close mines and open mines or quarries are rated to the poor no definite principle of assessment prevails, and that it is desirable, if possible, to have one uniform mode laid down by law.

"5. That in fixing the principle of rating mines on the basis of royalty, due regard should be had to the fact that such royalty represents the gradual sale of the fee, and is not a mere rental of the property.

"6. That certain suggestions offered in evidence, of captilising the royalties at their probable value (say 12 years), and taking the interest thereon as a basis of assessment, seems worthy of consideration (should any Bill for rating mines be submitted to Parliament), as a probable mode of solving a very difficult question, though the evidence given was not sufficiently ample to enable your Committee to offer any decided opinion on the matter."

Report proposed by Mr. *Colvile*, read 1°, as follows:

"That your Committee find that by the Statute of 43d Elizabeth, and the construction put by the courts of law on the language thereof, all mines (except coal mines), timber, and certain other properties, are exempt from being rated to the poor.

"That your Committee, while they do not recommend further legislation on the subject of rating of mines, consider that if the application of the principle of the Statute of Elizabeth is to be extended by including all mines, then it ought also to be extended to every species of property now exempt."

Report

Report proposed by Mr. *Vivian*, read 1°, as follows:

"That by the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in the year 1762, based upon the 43d of Elizabeth, c. 2, metallic mines, in which the dues are reserved in money, are exempt from poor rates.

"That open mineral workings and mines in which dues are reserved in kind are not exempt.

"That in consequence metallic mines have been hitherto for the most part exempt from such rates.

"That metallic mines are undertakings of a hazardous and uncertain character, being frequently carried on for lengthened periods at a positive loss; and that any additional burden would add to that loss, and put a speedy termination to such speculative outlay.

"That where the ownership of the surface and minerals is in the same hands, no possible injustice can be alleged from the exemption of minerals, and that such is generally the case.

"That where the ownership is separate, no greater grievance arises than that which might be proved in most districts from the residence of the labourer and the locality of labour not being coincident.

"That unless union rating were adopted, any such inequality of taxation would not be remedied, since mines are frequently worked in one district, while the miners reside in another.

"That it has not been shown that mines impose a burden upon a district, but rather that they raise the value of its rateable property at least to the extent of any poor they may introduce.

"That iron mines occur frequently in regular beds, and thus form an exception to the generally speculative and uncertain character of metallic mines.

"That iron works are already rated in respect of their total transactions, each furnace, although of little value in itself, being assessed at a high annual rental.

"That cases exist in which iron ore raised in one district is transported to another to be smelted, and that such cases form exceptions to the above rule.

"That while the fee of other rateable property tends rather to increase than diminish, the fee of mining property being gradually exhausted, becomes ultimately extinct, just as if a landed property were swept acre by acre into the sea.

"That the whole system of rating to the poor is replete with anomalies, and might well form the subject of comprehensive legislation; but that no such injustice has been proved in the exemption of metallic mines as to warrant special legislation on the subject."

Report proposed by Mr. *Williams*, read 1°, as follows:

"That no satisfactory evidence have been offered to this Committee to show why mines, other than coal mines, should not be rated to the poor and highway rates, in right of the dues or royalty."

Report proposed by Mr. *Ridley*, read 1°, as follows:

"1. That Your Committee have taken Evidence on the subject referred to them from all parts of the country. This Evidence has shown that the law relating to the assessment of mines to the poor and other parochial rates is full of anomalies and contradictions, and (except in the case of coal mines) depends more on the form of agreement between the lessor and lessee than on any general rule of rateability.

"2. That in the case of mines (other than coal mines, which are always rated), where the royalty or due is reserved in kind, such mines are rateable upon the royalty reserved by the lord, on the legal principle that the lord is an occupier, under the statute of Elizabeth. This is proved from the evidence from the mining districts of Derbyshire and other parts, and, up to the year 1832, in the mines of Cornwall.

"3. That where the royalty is reserved in the shape of a money payment, such liability does not exist.

"4. That Your Committee is of opinion that there are no good and valid grounds for this distinction.

"5. That so long as coal mines are assessed to the different local rates, Your Committee see no reason why the rating should not be extended to all other mines.

"6. That open mineral workings or quarries and close mines should, as far as rating is concerned, be placed on the same footing.

" 7. That in the rating of all mines, of whatever description, one principle of assessment should be established.

" 8. That Your Committee are fully aware of the difficulty of legislating on this subject, when they consider the different methods and systems employed in mining adventures in various parts of the country, as described in the evidence given before them; but they think that such evidence shows that the principle of assessment above referred to should recognise and be founded on the fact, that the working of a mine, of whatever description, is the using up of the corpus of the estate, and not the mere annual produce capable of reproduction.

" 9. That, in making the assessment, it should be the duty of those whose office it is to make the assessment to ascertain—

" 10. First. The probable number of years' purchase which the mine has been valued at by the lessor and lessee, which would be the gross rent.

" 11. Second. There should be deducted from this a certain sum for the redemption of the capital invested, with interest on that capital.

" 12. Third. The customary legal allowance for maintenance and repairs of machinery and plant.

" 13. The remaining sum would constitute the maximum net rent upon which the rate should be assessed.

" 14. It will be seen from the Evidence, that this principle is the one acted on in assessing the coal mines of Northumberland and Durham.

" 15. That in making this calculation, all plant and machinery, of whatever description, locomotive or stationary, in any way connected with or belonging to the mines, and which is incidental and necessary to the working of the mine, should be assessed as a whole, together with and as part of the mine, and not separately. If these principles were adopted, much of the difficulty now felt to exist as to the point whether the lessor or lessee should be made liable to the rate, would, in the opinion of Your Committee, be done away with. The terms of the lease being a matter to be settled between the parties who would, under these circumstances, take all these matters into their consideration in making their agreement, and the principle being once acknowledged and enacted, the levying of the assessment would soon become a matter of certainty and ease, and would avoid the confusion and disputes which now so frequently arise, and lead to such great expense. Your Committee do not think it necessary to enter into the consideration of the national policy of rating or not rating mines, so far as it relates to the great trading interests of the country, both foreign and domestic, as spoken to by some of the witnesses. They consider this beyond the purposes for which they were appointed, and as already settled by so long a term of usage, though such usage is only partial in its operation.

" 16. Your Committee, in conclusion, would remark, that in any fresh legislation on this subject, by which it should be proposed to extend the rateability of mines, due provision must be made for existing leases, in which, as appears from the Evidence generally, it is usual to insert that the lessee should pay the royalty or due free of all rates and taxes."

Motion made, and question, " That the report proposed by the Chairman be now read 2° and considered paragraph by paragraph," put and negatived.

Motion made and question put, " That the report proposed by Mr. Colvile be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph" (Mr. *Colvile*).—The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 8.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Fortescue.
	Colonel Pennant.
	Mr. Bouverie.
	Mr. Williams.
	Mr. Philipps.

Motion made and question put, " That the report proposed by Mr. Vivian be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph" (Mr. *Vivian*).—The Committee divided:—

Ayes,

Ayes, 2.	Noes, 10.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Foster.
	Mr. Ridley.
	Mr. Cavendish.
	Mr. Fortescue.
	Colonel Pennant.
	Mr. Bouverie.
	Mr. Spooner.
	Mr. Williams.
	Mr. Philipps.

Motion made and question, "That the report proposed by Mr. Williams be now read, 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph" (Mr. *Williams*), put and negatived.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the report proposed by Mr. Ridley be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph" (Mr. *Ridley*).

Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned to Monday, at half-past One o'clock.

Lunæ, 3° *die Augusti*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. KENDALL in the Chair.

Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Williams.
Mr. Ridley.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Vivian.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Hume.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Spooner.

Question, "That the report proposed by Mr. Ridley be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph," put and agreed to.

First paragraph read, amended, and agreed to.

Paragraph 2, read. Amendment proposed, to leave out from the first word "That," to the end of the paragraph, in order to insert the words, "Although mines (other than coal mines) are not as such rateable, yet where the royalty or due is reserved in kind, it is held to be rateable on the legal principle that the lord who receives it, is an occupier of land, and as such is subject to be rated for his occupation under the statute of the 43d of Elizabeth, the reservation of the royalties in kind appears from the evidence to be still the practice in Derbyshire and in some districts of Cornwall, and to have been the universal practice in Cornwall till the year 1832" (Mr. *Bouverie*), instead thereof. Question, "That the words, proposed to be left out, stand part of the paragraph," put and negatived—words added. Paragraph, as amended, agreed to.

Paragraph 3, read. Amendment proposed, after the word "liability," to insert the words "the law" (Mr. *Bouverie*). Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 7.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Spooner.	Colonel Pennant.
	Mr. Williams.
	Mr. Philipps.
	Mr. Hume.

Another amendment proposed at the end of the paragraph to add the words, "open mineral workings, quarries, and coal mines are deemed to be rateable and are rated in all cases." Question, "That those words be there added," put and agreed to. Paragraph, as amended, agreed to.

Paragraph 4, read, amended, and agreed to.

Motion made, after paragraph 4, to insert the following paragraph, "and that the lord should be rated in right of his royalty, whether received in a monied payment or otherwise" (Mr. *Williams*). Question put, "That this paragraph be there inserted." The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 6.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Williams.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Philipps.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Hume.	Mr. Bouverie.
	Mr. Spooner.

Paragraph 5, read. Amendment proposed after the first word, "That," to insert the words, "The great risk and uncertainty attending the working of metallic mines, render it inexpedient that they should be subject to the payment of rates" (Mr. *Colvile*). Question, "That those words be there added," put and negatived. Paragraph amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 6, read and agreed to.

Paragraph 7, read and negatived. Proposed paragraph (Mr. *Cavendish*) read 1°, as follows:—"That evidence has been given that the lord's dues arising from lead mines in Derbyshire are assessed to the poor and highway rates, and that these rates are paid by the lord; that this custom has prevailed for a long period, with satisfaction to all parties; and that it would be highly inexpedient to alter the custom by shifting the burden from the lord to the occupiers of the mine." Proposed paragraph read 2°, and amended by inserting after the word "given" the words "of peculiar customs existing in Derbyshire and," and after the word "are" the words "taken in kind and are," and by striking out from the word "rates" to the end of the proposed paragraph, and by verbal amendments. Question put, "That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed report." The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 6.	Noes, 5.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Bouverie.
Colonel Pennant.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. Williams.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Hume.	

Motion made, at the end of the last paragraph, to add the words, "That the principle of rating coal mines and quarries now generally adopted on the basis of royalties or dues as a net rent, is a false principle, inasmuch as such royalties represent the sale of the fee and not the rental of the property" (Mr. *Foster*). Question put, "That those words be there added." The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 8.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Cavendish.
	Colonel Pennant.
	Mr. Bouverie.
	Mr. Williams.
	Mr. Philipps.
	Mr. Hume.

Paragraph 8 read. Amendment proposed, after the first word "That," to insert the words "certain suggestions offered in evidence, of capitalising the royalties at their probable value, and taking the interest thereon as a basis of assessment, seems worthy of consideration." Question put, "That those words be there inserted." The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 7.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Davey.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Cavendish.
	Colonel Pennant.
	Mr. Williams.
	Mr. Philipps.
	Mr. Hume.

Another amendment proposed, after the first word "That," to insert the words "it has been contended with great force before Your Committee that in the assessment of mines the principle should be recognised" (Mr. *Foster*). Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and agreed to. Paragraph amended, and agreed to.

Paragraphs 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, read, and negatived.

Paragraph

Paragraph 15, read, amended, and agreed to.

Paragraph 16, read and negatived.

Resolved, "That this Report be the Report to The House."

Resolved, "That the Chairman do move for power to report Observations and Minutes of Evidence to The House."

Ordered to Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence and Evidence of 1st Session.

Ordered to Report.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days absent from Home under Orders of Committee.	Expenses of Journey to London.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Thomas Sopwith	Mining engineer	Allenheads, Northumberland.	3	8 18 6	6 6 –	15 4 6
C. L. Bradley	ditto	Richmond, Yorkshire.	3	6 – –	6 6 –	12 6 –
Rev. R. H. Jackson	Clergyman	Rhyl	6	4 – –	6 6 –	10 6 –
W. P. Struvé	Civil engineer	–	3	5 – –	9 9 –	14 9 –
J. W. James	ditto	–	3	5 – –	6 6 –	11 6 –
W. Llewellyn	ditto	–	3	5 – –	6 6 –	11 6 –
Samuel Dobson	ditto	–	3	4 – –	6 6 –	10 6 –
Richard Smith	–	–	3	2 10 –	3 3 –	5 13 –
William Mathews	–	–	3	2 – –	3 3 –	5 3 –
Thomas Wynne	–	–	3	4 4 –	6 6 –	10 10 –
Thomas Weston	Clerk to Union	Cheadle	3	3 8 –	3 3 –	6 11 –
Thomas Cope	Manufacturer	Fenton, N. Staffordshire.	3	2 18 –	3 3 –	6 1 –
George Baker	Merchant	Burslem	3	2 14 –	3 3 –	5 17 –
—— Higginbotham	Surveyor	Staffordshire Potteries.	3	3 – –	6 6 –	9 6 –
James M'Intyre	Chief bailiff	Burslem	3	3 18 –	3 3 –	7 1 –
J. Lownds	Clerk to Poor-law Union.	ditto	3	3 18 –	3 3 –	7 1 –
R. C. Hales	Engineer and surveyor.	Stoke-upon-Trent	3	3 18 –	6 6 –	10 4 –
R. W. Bainbridge	Engineer	Barnard Castle	2	5 14 –	6 6 –	12 – –
Rees Rhys	Miner	Aberdare	4	– –	– –	4 4 –
William Dickenson	Agent	Cockermouth	3	7 10 –	3 3 –	10 13 –
J. J. Taylor	Mining engineer	Newcastle	3	6 14 –	6 6 –	13 – –
Thomas E. Forster	ditto	Newcastle	3	6 14 –	6 6 –	13 – –
Rev. J. Berkeley	Clergyman	St. Cleer	5	6 10 –	5 5 –	11 15 –
H. M. Higman	–	St. Austell	5	6 10 –	5 5 –	11 15 –
Edward Stocker	–	St. Austell	5	5 10 –	5 5 –	10 15 –
F. Wragge	Agent	Stoke-on-Trent	3	3 10 –	3 3 –	6 13 –
Hugh Williamson	Manufacturer	Staffordshire Potteries.	3	3 10 –	3 3 –	6 13 –
Robert Heath	Ironmaster	Newcastle	3	3 8 –	3 3 –	6 11 –
W. J. Pease	Owner	Darlington	3	4 17 –	3 3 –	8 – –
Geo. Simpson	–	Ulverston	2	4 – –	2 2 –	6 2 –
Joseph Fisher	–	–	2	4 – –	2 2 –	6 2 –
J. H. Cotterell	Agent	Bath	3	2 8 –	3 3 –	5 11 –
James Randall	–	Bath	3	2 8 –	3 3 –	5 11 –
					£.	296 15 6

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 26° *die Februarii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Hume.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Sopwith, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1. Mr. *Ridley*.] I BELIEVE you are a Fellow of the Royal Society?—I am.
2. And also a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers?—I am a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.
3. Are you a mining engineer yourself?—I am.
4. For how long have you been acquainted with mining districts?—For upwards of 30 years.
5. In what part of England?—In various parts of England, more particularly in the north of England.
6. You are the mining agent, I believe, or you manage the mines of Mr. Beaumont, in Northumberland and Durham?—Yes.
7. Are those mines very extensive?—They are; I believe they are the most extensive lead mines in the world.
8. Are you acquainted also with the mines at Alston Moor?—I am.
9. You do not superintend them, I believe?—No; I have no connexion with them, but I know them very well.
10. Have you ever been consulted, as an engineer, by the Crown, upon matters relating to mines?—I have, very frequently.
11. In what part of the country have you been employed in that capacity?—In a great many different parts, both in the north of England, Wales and Somersetshire, and more particularly in the Forest of Dean, where I acted as a Commissioner for the Crown in the management of the Dean Forest Mines, under a Parliamentary Commission.
12. Was that with respect to coal mines or lead mines?—Coal and iron mines.
13. Will you state the method of working the lead mines in the districts with which you are connected?—The lead mines are worked partly by adits or levels driven from the surface, and partly by shafts, over a great extent of country, chiefly of a mountainous character, and in land of very inferior quality as regards any agricultural purposes. The veins in which the ore is found extend over a considerable length, and trials are made for the purpose of obtaining ore in those veins; some of those are successful, and others very unsuccessful.
14. Can you give the Committee a particular instance in which a mine of that kind which you have described has been unsuccessful at one time, but which, having been taken up again afterwards, has been successful?—Yes; a remarkable instance of that kind occurred in the case of Hudgill Burn Mine, in the county of Cumberland; that was commenced by adventurers, who expended about 2,000*l*, and got nothing, and it lay for about eight years, until it was again recommenced by another party of adventurers.

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15. Did they obtain a beneficial result?—They were successful, and it became a very important mine.

16. Are the mines in the districts with which you are acquainted in the hands of large companies, or are they ventures taken by small companies of poor miners?—The mines which are under my own direction belong chiefly to Mr. Beaumont; entirely to Mr. Beaumont in the county of Northumberland, and to the Bishop of Durham in the county of Cumberland, Mr. Beaumont being the lessee; but in some of the adjacent districts, the mines in Alston Moor, for instance, belong to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, and most of the manors or manorial rights are held over large tracts of country by different owners.

17. Are there any large companies that work the mines?—There are. There is one in particular, a very extensive company, called the London Lead Company. It was incorporated by a charter in the time of Queen Elizabeth. They are called "The Governor and Company for Smelting Lead," and they carry on their operations on a very extensive scale in the counties of Durham, Cumberland and Westmoreland.

18. Mr. *Bouverie.*] You have spoken of Mr. Beaumont's mines; does he work them himself, or let his minerals out?—He works them himself.

19. Mr. *Ridley.*] Do poor men, miners, without capital, embark in mining enterprises in the lead mining districts with which you are cognizant?—Very frequently; in Alston Moor and some other districts, but in Alston more particularly.

20. Mr. *Bouverie.*] What is the custom with respect to taking mines?—The practice there is, that when any persons discover a vein, or imagine that there is a mineral vein, they apply to the agent of Greenwich Hospital for permission to make a trial. That permission is given for a certain length of time, and they then commence to make a trial, and continue it for a greater or less time, according as they are successful or not. If they are successful, then they probably take a lease of the mine, and continue to work it according to the productveness of the mine. But it very frequently happens that those adventures are failures altogether. There are a very great number of cases in which poor men, having little or no capital, but depending chiefly upon their labour, get two or three partners with a little money, perhaps, to assist them, and they continue the trials in that manner. The case which I mentioned was an instance of that kind.

21. Mr. *Ridley.*] In what manner are the rents of lead mines usually paid in the mining districts of the north of England?—They are usually paid by a royalty charge upon the produce of the mines; a certain rate in kind is usually fixed, which the parties are to pay in case they procure ore. The rate varies at different times, and in different districts.

22. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Is that a proportion of the ore?—A proportion of the ore.

23. Mr. *Ridley.*] Is it a fixed or certain rent that is reserved?—No; there is no fixed or certain rent reserved with respect to the lead mines in the north of England.

24. In what manner is the rent usually paid; what proportion does it bear to the produce?—The proportion in Alston Moor is one-fifth of the produce on the east side of the River Tyne, and one-sixth on the west side of the River Tyne, which bisects or divides the manor. Those rents have been recently reduced.

25. Is the royalty paid in kind, or in money?—The royalty in Aston Moor is paid in kind.

26. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Will you state in what proportion the rents have been reduced?—The first reduction that was made was to one-sixth on the east side of the River Tyne, and one-seventh on the west; I believe a further reduction has been made again, and others are contemplated, or are under consideration.

27. Mr. *Ridley.*] Are the lead mines in your district rated to the relief of the poor?—Part of them are, and part of them are not.

28. Which part of them are not rated?—Generally speaking, the lead mines in the north of England are considered to be exempted from rates, and they practically are so, with only one considerable exception that I know of; that is in the case of Mr. Beaumont's leasehold lead mines in Weardale.

29. What proportion does the mining population in that district with which you

you are most conversant bear to the inhabitants generally?—It varies in different parishes; but it bears a very considerable proportion.

30. Have you any tables from which you could state the proportion?—No, I have not the exact proportion; the upper dales, the wildest parts of the district, which depend entirely upon the mines, are inhabited almost exclusively by miners and their families; but in the lower parts of the parish there are some farmers and others, so that there is a more mixed population in some of the towns and villages.

31. Can you give a rough guess as to what the proportion is in the lower parts as compared with the upper?—I should say about half; taking the entire parish, the entire population, I should say that fully one-half would be entirely dependent upon the mines.

32. Of what parish do you speak?—The parish of Allandale, and the adjoining parishes generally; that is the proportion which the mining population bears to the population of the country generally.

33. Does the mining population of the districts in that part of the country often become a burden upon the poor-rates?—Not particularly so; they do sometimes, but not to any great extent.

34. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of rating the whole of the lead mines in the district of Allandale?—I believe the effect would be very unfavourable as regards the state of mining generally; I think it would be very detrimental to mining interests, and to the progress of mining.

35. Will you have the goodness to explain to the Committee a little more at length in what way you think it would be so detrimental?—I think that, from the way in which lead mines are worked, there is always a very large expenditure at a considerable risk; and when a vein is productive, there is a line of demarcation, where part of the vein can be worked to a profit, and part of it cannot be worked to a profit; any additional imposition upon mines would, of course, make an alteration in that limit; and the practical effect of it, I think, would be to discourage most particularly those small adventurers, who would not undertake the trials which they now do; and I think it would practically lead to the extinction of many small mines; it would lead also to an additional expense in the raising of ore, which would make a large quantity unprofitable; part of the ore would be left in the earth, and would never be obtained at all; whereas I consider that as minerals of all descriptions are a means of employment to a vast number of people besides those engaged in mining, you would be doing a national injury if you created additional expense and difficulty in the procuring of those minerals which are the means of furnishing very extensive employment.

36. Part of the mines of which you have spoken, namely, those in Weardale, pay poor-rates?—They do.

37. What is the operation, in your opinion, of paying poor-rates in that district; has it had a detrimental effect?—It is a very extensive district. Of course the amount paid in poor-rates is a charge upon the raising of ore. Whatever charge comes upon the raising of ore always tends to limit the extent to which the lead can be raised. We pay in poor-rates, church-rates, and altogether, about 1,000 *l.* a year in Weardale; that is 1,000 *l.* additional charge upon the raising of ore in a district where there are a great number of men employed in raising ore which is not profitable at all. The people who are employed may, by possibility, discover something which may or may not be profitable. But certainly, whatever lessens the expense of raising ore, tends to the employment of a great number of men; and the system has become so thoroughly understood and acted upon in the north of England generally, that my idea is, that the imposition of poor-rates would tend very much to discourage adventure, and would also of necessity compel a less number of men to be employed in those portions of the vein to which I have alluded.

38. Do you think that the non-payment of poor-rates has been beneficial to the interests of mining in that particular district of Allandale with which you are more especially connected?—I feel quite satisfied that that has been the practical result. I think that the Manor of Alston Moor, if saddled with a poor-rate, would be very much worse off than it is at present. I believe that such a measure would create much more distress than it could possibly relieve; and I believe that that feeling would be entertained by every one connected with the district.

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39. In Weardale, where those rates are levied, who is rated; who pays the rate?—The lessee, Mr. Beaumont, who is lessee under the Bishop of Durham.

40. The lessee of the mines?—Yes.

41. What is the general character of the lead miners in the north of England; are they a venturesome people, like other miners; are they disposed to emigrate?—There has been some emigration, but not much. I should say that the only emigration has been of what would be called the surplus population during the last few years; and I believe that many of those who have gone away would be very glad to come back again. They are not a particularly venturesome people; they are disposed to settle quietly. Most of our workmen have been employed there with their families from one generation to another. I believe nothing can be more prosperous than the general condition of the lead-mining districts. The miners are a provident, steady, well-conducted class of men, and I think a very great number of them would be thrown out of employment if you began to rate the mines in those districts which are worked in the manner I have described.

42. If an alteration should be made in the law for the purpose of rendering mines rateable to the poor-rates, in what way, in your opinion, ought that rate to be levied?—The only mode of rating that I can conceive to be at all practicable, as regards our district and the north of England generally, would be to lay a rate upon the dues actually received by the lord.

43. As in fact the law is now?—Yes; but the practice is different, at least under agreement. For example, Mr. Beaumont, as lessee, pays the rating in Weardale; but in Allandale, where his own freehold mines are situated, no rate at all is payable.

44. Have you got the agreement of which you speak which was come to by Mr. Beaumont about the payment of rates in Weardale?—I have got a copy of the resolution of the vestry of the parish of Stanhope, where those mines are situated, passed on the 10th of May 1833: "That Mr. Beaumont be rated to the relief of the poor upon two-thirds the amount paid by him for tithe and lot ore, and that other holders of lot or duty ore in the parish be rated according to a like valuation," There were one or two other small holders; but Mr. Beaumont was the holder of nearly the entire parish. The same resolution went on, "That the Stanhope and Tyne Railroad Company be rated for their lime-kilns and way-leave at a valuation of two-thirds their rent for the same."

45. Do you think that any difference should be made as regards the royalty paid, whether it is paid in kind or in money?—No; I can see no reason for a distinction of that kind, because, in truth, we practically in Weardale pay in money. A commutation is made which extends over a great number of years, and it is to all intents and purposes a money rent; and in the last hundred years I do not know that the taking of the duty in kind has been in operation for more than two or three years altogether; so that practically we do pay a money rent, and the rate is assessed upon that.

46. Mr. *Bouverie.*] The lessors might take it in kind if they chose, might they not?—They have the power to take it; but we make a commutation.

47. Mr. *Ridley.*] Have you got a paper in your hand which shows what has been paid for poor-rates?—Yes.

48. What is the sum total of annual payment?—The greatest amount of poor-rate paid in a year has been 1,050 *l.* The usual payment is 750 *l.* at the present time, and has been for the last few years.

49. *Chairman.*] For what parish?—The parish of Stanhope. The highway rate is about 300 *l.* in round numbers; the church-rate about 37 *l.* 10 *s.* The total in 20 years makes 20,862 *l.*, which, in round numbers, may be called 1,000 *l.* a year.

50. Has there ever been any claim made upon you in Allandale for poor-rates?—We had a claim made about six years ago for poor-rates upon part of the machinery employed in the mines, being part of the mining property; and I think that that case affords a very fair example of the difficulties which would be likely to arise in any general rating of mines. We put up some new machinery for the greater safety of the men, and the convenience of working-cages for descending the mines, and other apparatus worked by hydraulic machinery. The cost of those engines was 2,500 *l.*, and they were valued by the people who laid on the rate at 48,000 *l.*

51. Then I presume you appealed against that rate?—Yes, of course, and it was

was quashed entirely at the sessions. The parish incurred great expenses in the law proceeding and in making the valuation.

52. Have you ever considered what could have been the reason for the exemption from poor-rate of lead and other mineral mines, when coal mines have been always rated; why, in your opinion, should there be any difference?—I believe in the time of Queen Elizabeth, when the poor-rate was first imposed, coal mines were worked with very much greater facility than they now are; they were productive, as they now are, of a material which is valuable as soon as it comes to the surface, and can be sold at once; whereas it was found necessary to send to foreign countries for skilful persons, who were acquainted with the modes of industry employed in converting ores, such as tin, lead and copper, into useful metals. In the time of Queen Elizabeth great pains were taken to get skilful workmen from abroad for that purpose; and I believe the intention of the Legislature was to encourage that description of mining by an exemption from imposts of that kind; I believe it to have been a sound legislative view; and, without giving any opinion as to other parts of the country where the conditions may be, and I believe are very different, I do consider that, as regards the north of England, it would be sound policy and sound wisdom to continue that exemption.

53. Then, are the Committee to understand you to say that you would not make any alteration in the law as it at present stands upon this subject?—I would not have the law altered as regards the north of England; we are doing very well, and if you let us go on as we are, we shall continue to do very well; and so little interest does the inquiry create in the north of England, that a gentleman, resident in the district where these mines are situated, wrote a letter to me the other day, to say that he was not aware that this inquiry was going on.

54. Have you any clubs or benefit societies in Allandale?—We have very excellent clubs and benefit societies, which, I believe, would not be promoted or improved by any general measure of rating, if applied to occupiers; I think it would be very detrimental to those societies; as it is, not only is there a system of very sound benevolence exercised as regards the workmen generally, because I believe that Mr. Beaumont pays very much more to that purpose than the amount of any rates possibly could be; but the clubs that are got up by the workmen themselves are upon a very sound and excellent plan, and they are very largely supported by Mr. Beaumont.

55. Will you describe that plan, if you please; have you got any written statement of it?—No; but I could easily furnish the Committee with a copy of the printed rules; but the principle is this, that, instead of those clubs which were formerly held in public-houses, and which were based upon very wrong principles, we have clubs based upon a proper principle of calculation, paying certain sums at different ages, and with different rates for sickness and death, according as they elect; then, whatever amount the workmen subscribe in a year, Mr. Beamont contributes a donation at the end of the year of five per cent. upon the amount of their contribution, and also two per cent. upon whatever sum they have invested. In a club of that kind established a few years ago, they have now 800*l.* invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and a few hundred pounds more in a savings bank; but I was going on to state, that I believe Mr. Bainbridge, who is the manager of the London Lead Company's concerns, will tell you that their workmen, whose club has been in existence a much longer time, have as much as 20,000 *l.* invested for their relief in old age.

56. Are the funds of the club in Allandale with which you are conversant applicable for the purposes of sickness, or want of employment?—They are applicable, in cases of sickness disabling them from employment; they receive 6*s.*, 8*s.*, or 10*s.* a-week, as they may elect to pay for by gradual contributions.

57. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Have they pensions in old age also?—Pensions in old age.

58. Mr. *Ridley.*] When they become too old for work, they are entitled to a certain sum, according to their subscription to those funds?—Provision is made for that, but the men do not act upon it very much.

59. Is the benefit arising from those clubs confined to the miners, who are contributors to the fund, or is it extended to the general population of the district?—To the general population of the district.

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60. To all those who are contributors to the funds?—To all those who are contributors.

61. Have you any statement of the poor-rates in Allandale?—I have.

62. What information does that give as regards the amount of rates in Allandale?—The amount of rate collected last year was about 2,120 *l.*; I believe the rates for the last three years, in round numbers, were 2,000 *l.*, 2,121 *l.*, 2,122 *l.*, and 2,123 *l.*, in the three different years.

63. About how much in the pound is that?—About 3 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound in the year, levied by two rates of 10 *d.* in the pound, and two rates of 1 *s.* in the pound.

64. Does that include all the rates, or is that the poor-rate alone?—That is the poor-rate alone. Then Mr. Beaumont is rated to the poor for his smelting-mills, for which he pays the highest rate of any one in the parish; I should say that when the ore is brought to the surface, it gives employment to a great number of both men and boys in the washing processes, and then it is afterwards conveyed to the smelting-mills, and those smelting-mills are very properly rated, because there is a real occupation from year to year; but in the case of ordinary mines, I cannot see how there is any occupation at all.

65. What do you mean by ordinary mines?—I mean that the working of our lead mines cannot be said to be an occupation in the strict sense of the word, because the process of driving those levels and sinking adits for the discovery of minerals, is not a beneficial occupation; it is a mere expenditure of money, which may be a total loss; the extraction of the ore itself is not an occupation, but it is the taking away of a part of the body or corpus of the estate.

66. Then you are of opinion that the levying of poor-rates upon ventures, such as you are acquainted with in the district of Allandale, would, upon the whole, be injurious to the mining interests?—Yes; I think it would not only discourage, but would really prevent poor men from working mines; I think it would have that practical tendency; I am very strongly of that opinion.

67. Supposing the rates were levied, would there be any difficulty in collecting the money from poor adventurers, such as you have in your district?—I think there would be great practical difficulty; in the first place, many have not the money to pay; all they have is their labour; it might stop them if they were called upon one year to pay the rate for the preceding year; it might be, that in the current year for which they were paying the rate, they might be getting no produce at all; I think with that class, namely, the poor adventurers, the practical difficulty of collecting the rate would be exceedingly great.

68. Have you any statement in figures which shows the produce of some of those mines?—I have a statement of the produce of the mines in Alston Moor last year. There are 38 mines, producing about 73,300 *l.* altogether.

69. *Chairman.*] Is that the whole of the mines?—The whole of the mines. Call it in round numbers 80,000 *l.*; that is what the produce of the mines would sell for.

70. Can you tell the Committee the cost of working them?—No; it is impossible to tell the cost, because a very great deal of money is spent which is altogether unproductive. Nobody knows the cost; there are no means of knowing, so many small companies go on spending their money. I have known 1,200 *l.* spent, without produce. People go on till they cannot go on any longer, and then they give it up.

71. Do the products of those different mines vary much?—They vary very much; some of them have a very considerable produce, as much as 30,000 *l.* in value; others only 5 *l.*, or 6 *l.*, or 8 *l.*, or 10 *l.* In some cases the produce would be under 5 *l.*

72. In such cases as those, where the produce is very small from year to year, would there be any great difficulty in collecting the poor-rate?—I think the difficulty would soon come to an end; I believe the mines would be abandoned altogether; it would soon shut them up, and I think more men would thus be thrown upon the parish from want of employment than would be met by any relief which could be obtained from the rating of mines of that character.

73. You think that in the case of many of those small lead mines which are mentioned in the paper you hold in your hand, the working of them depends so much upon a spirit of adventure, that, if an additional rate were put upon them, they would not be worked at all?—I think so. The cases are sometimes very remarkable

remarkable of poor men beginning a mine, and being obliged to abandon it for want of capital. I have known a mine which the workmen who had discovered it sold for a small price, upon being afterwards worked with capital, become extremely productive indeed. But the commencement of mines by small workmen would, I think, be very much interfered with by the imposition of poor-rates; and as the system is now in work, and has been for hundreds of years, I think in all probability the value of all that class of mining districts would be very materially damaged. I do not consider the question of so much importance as regards large mining concerns, like Mr. Beaumont's, for instance. There, I think, it is a question of secondary importance; but I speak more particularly of those other mining districts in the north. Indeed, we do already pay a very large poor-rate, and therefore it would be rather Mr. Beaumont's object to have other people rated as well as himself. I am not dealing with that question on the one side or the other, but speaking merely of what I believe the effect would be in the district generally.

74. You have the management of Mr. Beaumont's mines; do you also represent that gentleman's opinion upon this subject?—No; I am come here to express my own opinion; I am not authorized to express his opinion. I believe Mr. Beaumont is rather favourable to rating. I am not authorized to express his opinion, but I know very well that, if the Legislatuse thought fit to establish a rate, he would not object to it by any means. I do not think it affects the large proprietors like himself so much as the district generally.

75. Is the district where the Allandale mines are of large value for agricultural purposes?—It is of very little value at all, except for grouse shooting; the greater part of the valleys are inhabited almost entirely by the people employed in the mines, as regards the upper part of the valleys.

76. Can you give the Committee any idea of what is the general feeling of the ratepayers in that district upon this subject?—The ratepayers in Allandale would like to have the mines rated, of course; they very frequently talk about it; and I dare say those who are not connected with the mines very much desire it. As regards the parish of Alston Moor, I believe it is different; because there, for the reasons I am alleging, I should think that the general feeling of the inhabitants would be averse to a rating, inasmuch as it would be detrimental to the interests of the district, at least that is what I should imagine to be the case.

77. Do you think the employment of mining as it is carried on in that district is a healthy occupation upon the whole?—The lead miners are not considered to be long-lived, but I believe they live much longer than the average of life, and that the general result, as regards health, shows really a very favourable condition; their employment, continuing from one family to another, induces a steadiness and continuity of occupation, which is very favourable. I have been making some inquiry upon that subject lately, and I was quite astonished to find that the number of deaths per thousand was, in point of fact, lower than in any other part of England.

78. As to general health, is there very much sickness among the lead miners arising from the labour in the mines?—No; I do not think it is a very unhealthy employment. The mines now are very well ventilated, and the men only work eight hours a day, five days a week; they have Saturday and Sunday; and I think if they were to take good care of themselves above ground, there is really nothing in the mines generally to be detrimental to their health.

79. Are the miners in your district occupied at all in the summer time above ground, as they are in Derbyshire?—They have nearly all a little farm; they have hay-farms, and they get their own hay: they have two or three weeks from the mines to get it, and some of them go down to the sea-side for a week or a fortnight.

80. Those farms upon which they get their own hay they pay poor-rates upon, I presume?—Yes, they pay poor-rates upon those farms.

81. Have you known the mining districts in that part of the country sufficiently long to be able to give the Committee an opinion as to the general operation of mining in that country, as regards the population, whether it has been, upon the whole, beneficial to the property in the district, and the population living upon it, or whether the latter has become a charge in sickness and otherwise upon the property?—There is no question that the value of land has been very greatly increased: the districts were not fit for sheep-walks, but

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merely for grouse shooting, intersected by valleys of cultivated land. The value of property has been increased very much indeed.

82. Mr. *Philipps.*] Did I understand you correctly to say that the poor-rate is 3 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound?—Three shillings and eight-pence in the pound upon the whole year, laid on by four rates, two of 1 *s.* each, and two of 10 *d.* each; It has been about that the last two or three years; sometimes it has varied.

83. How do you account for its being so high if the people are healthy in that district?—I account for it by there not being a very great deal of property to lay the rate upon, because most of the parish being wild moor, the rateable property is comparatively circumscribed; it is not like a large town. There is a large number of acres, but the number rateable is comparatively small. There is no doubt that the rate-payers who pay that rate complain of it, and would very gladly see the rate paid by the lead mines, to relieve them to a certain extent; that is their wish and feeling.

84. Do you know what is the total amount of the rest of the rates, the highway-rate, and so on?—The proportion is about one-half more, that is, taking 750 *l.* as the poor-rate; 300 *l.* it would be in round numbers.

85. How is the lead conveyed from the mines?—The lead is conveyed partly by ponies or mules over the moors, and partly by the ordinary roads; sometimes by roads constructed over the moors, and sometimes upon the turnpike roads.

86. Is the highway-rate heavy?—I forget the exact amount of the highway-rate.

87. *Chairman.*] Of what parish are you now speaking?—I am speaking of the parish of Weardale; we pay the highway rate in the parish of Weardale. I see here 366 *l.* we paid one year, in another year 215 *l.*, in another 347 *l.*, and 299 *l.* in another.

88. Mr. *Philipps.*] Does the quality of the lead vary in the different mines, or does it continue tolerably uniform?—It varies. The chief variation affecting its saleable value, is with reference to the quantity of silver which is contained in it.

89. Does the profit of the mines principally depend upon the quantity, or upon the quality?—It depends chiefly upon the quantity.

90. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that the health generally of your miners is good?—I consider that their health generally is good.

91. The question was asked, why, if there was such good health, your rates were so high, and, as I understood your answer, it was, "Because the agricultural part is small, and therefore that the rate falls heavily upon that small part"?—Just so, which is very much complained of by those parties.

92. The south part of Allandale being a very coarse part, is chiefly a mining district?—The south part is the mineral part.

93. As I understand, the population there is almost entirely mining?—Almost entirely mining; there are two valleys like a fork going into the south part.

94. If I understood you correctly, you said that, taking the average of the whole parish, the population was about half miners and half agricultural?—I should say there would be rather more miners than otherwise.

95. Then I come to the conclusion, that the population of the northern part must be chiefly agricultural?—Yes, they are agricultural, and those depending upon the smelting; they are partly smelters and partly agriculturists.

96. I presume that the northern part is the most productive part, as far as agriculture goes?—Yes, but there is not very much; there is scarcely any corn grown in any part of the parish; it is too high; it is chiefly grazing farms.

97. The agriculturists are the parties whose rates are high, and who pay the principal part towards the poor-rates?—Yes.

98. Are the parties in the north at all interested in the operations of the south?—Very much so.

99. Will you state in what way they are interested?—In the first place, the principal means of employment in the north part where the small market town is, and the great nucleus of the population exists, are the smelting mills; they are the chief means of employment to a great number of people. Those smelters have small farms, and are immediately dependent upon the produce of the mines. Then there are better roads, and a greater demand for horses, in consequence of the mines, than there would be without.

100. Who pays the highway rate?—It is paid by the people who pay the poor-rates.

101. Then you cannot say that they benefit by the other parties, when they themselves pay for that which they have?—Pardon me; I must explain that, because without explanation it will not be understood: I mean to say, that if the mines were not there, there would be no good roads; that the roads being made to bisect their property, render it more valuable; consequently the mines are the means of their having good roads at all: the mines are the means of keeping up traffic upon the roads. Without the mines, there would be no roads; and without the roads, their land would be of much less value.

102. To whom do the south and north part of Allandale belong?—To a great many proprietors.

103. If it is such a large benefit to them, why do they complain of the rates?—Everybody complains if he has anything to pay; we may take that to be a general rule.

104. Is it of recent date that they have been obliged to pay all the rates?—No; it has never been otherwise.

105. In Allandale the mines have never been rated?—No.

106. Has that been always a source of complaint, or only lately?—I dare say always, as far as I know.

107. Mr. *Spooner*.] You never recollect it otherwise?—I have not known it otherwise; I imagine that there are persons who are small shopkeepers and small holders who say, "We have to pay a certain amount of poor-rate, and Mr. Beaumont, who derives a large amount of profit from his mine, does not pay poor-rate." I take it for granted that has been always a complaint with them.

108. As I understand from you, the north part is but comparatively a small mining district, but that, in point of fact, the parties there are so much interested in the business from the south, that they ought to pay all the rates to the poor?—I have not given my evidence so much with reference to Allandale; I am not prepared to state but what there is a great deal of consideration to be given to that point of view. I have been speaking with reference to the subject most particularly as it regards other mining districts.

109. Take Allandale, and give the Committee your candid opinion upon that point?—The same reasoning that applies to those other districts does also, to a certain extent, though I do not mean to so great an extent, to our mines, namely, that any additional charge laid upon the mines would, if the price of lead were to come down very low, render it necessary to make a reduction, and to throw men out of employment, and thus cause a heavy pressure upon the poor-rates. I am of opinion that, from the pressure of the poor-rates upon the mines, a great number of men would be thrown out of employment, from an inability to employ them in the mines, and that the parish would suffer more by that than they would gain by the imposition of poor-rates.

110. Are you prepared to say that you think the north part of Allandale ought to pay the whole of the poor-rates, in consequence of the benefits which they receive from the other part of the parish?—I think it is their interest to do so; I do not mean to say but what it appears to be a hardship upon the face of it.

111. Is there such a surplus of population at the present moment that any little diminution in the employment of labourers would throw more than the agriculturists want upon the labour market at this moment?—The agriculturists do not want many there.

112. Do they pay higher wages in consequence of the mines being there?—I think that there is a better state of employment, a better demand for houses, and a healthier state of things altogether in consequence of the mines being there than there would be without the mines; and, to a certain degree, that the diminution of that condition of things would be a diminution of the general well-being of the parish.

113. The population that has been brought there has been of course brought there by the mines in a great measure?—In a great measure.

114. Have the poor-rates increased since the mines have been increasing?—The mines have not increased of late.

115. Have the poor-rates increased within the last few years?—I think not; I do not see, from the Returns I have, that in the last few years there is any material difference.

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116. With regard to the clubs, when an investment is made by the miners, is it kept back from their wages, or how is it collected?—No, there is nothing compulsory; it is all entirely voluntary upon their part, in our mines.

117. In your mines each man invests what he likes?—Yes; each man invests what he likes.

118. And then there is a per-centage allowed upon that investment?—That is a donation by Mr. Beaumont.

119. Then, if I understand you, each investment must be in each miner's name?—Each investment is in each miner's name.

120. If he has an accident, and is prevented from working, and if his money is exhausted, or he has not got money, that accident occurring in the mines, upon what fund does he fall back for relief?—We have very few accidents; there are scarcely any accidents in our mines; during the 12 years that I have had the management of these mines, there has certainly not been, on the average, one death in two years from accident.

121. Take the case of ill health; you have, I suppose, ill health there?—We have ill health, and we have old age; in cases of old age, after long employment, Mr. Beaumont pays pensions to the men; and, in cases of accident, relief is given, I should say, very liberally; in fact, Mr. Beaumont spends much more gratuitously than he would be called upon to pay for poor-rates.

122. Suppose Mr. Beaumont were not so generous or so kind, what fund would the miners have to fall back upon?—They would fall back upon the parish.

123. After a man has exhausted his energies, his sinews, and his health in the labour of those who speculate in the mines, ought he, in his old age, in your opinion, to fall back upon the poor-rates levied upon those who have no direct interest in the mines?—If the other inhabitants of the parish had no direct interest in them; but I think they have a direct interest, and a very great one. My opinion is, that if a rate were laid upon the Allandale mines, it would, during a few years, be a relief to the other rate-payers; but I think that the operation of the rates, over a series of years, would be detrimental to the parish generally: that is my belief.

124. You have not, I think, quite answered my question; you say that the rate-payers have an interest almost direct; do you think that their interest is such that they alone ought to pay the rates, and that the parties, making, some of them, a large profit in those mines, should in no way contribute towards the relief of the poor?—I know very well that that is a view that may be taken, and to a certain extent I agree to the theory of the principle laid down upon a general ground of that kind; but, speaking with reference to the general practice of it, I believe the practice would not correspond with the theory.

125. But still, to a certain extent, you think that those who employ the labourers, should have the burden of taking care of them?—To some extent, I think so.

126. Now, with regard to Alston Moor, you have stated that there are as many as 38 mines there?—That is the number in Alston Moor, according to the account handed to me. I cannot give it from official authority, but I believe it is correct.

127. You state that the produce of those mines varies from 30,000 *l.* a year to 5 *l.* a year?—Yes; I have here one mine at the head of the list, the produce of which, in round numbers, would be 30,000 *l.*, and I have another here which would not be 5 *l.*

128. In Alston Moor they pay no poor-rates?—They pay no poor-rates.

129. They never have paid poor-rates?—They never have.

130. And you think that if they were to pay poor-rates, it would most likely prevent small speculations?—I think so.

131. Those small speculations are the miners' speculations, are they not?—Yes.

132. You state that in many cases, in those small mines, the poor men find it very expensive to proceed, and that they are obliged, owing to their own poverty, to abandon them?—Yes.

133. Is the number of small mines much greater than of the larger ones?—The small mines are by far the more numerous. There are only three very considerable mines. Perhaps by looking over that paper (I cannot give it in officially, though I believe it to be correct), the Committee will get a general idea

idea of the truth of my statement. I only profess to give specific evidence of that district with which I am acquainted.

134. From your great experience, what is your opinion as to the tendency of those small speculations; are they not likely to bring about poverty?—No, I think not. I think that those small speculations are conducted by people who have been brought up to mining; they know mining, and they know nothing else; and if they were not employed there, they could not turn to any other handicraft, because they have not been brought up to it. They do contrive to live, and a vast number of people support themselves and their families by that means in a very healthy and respectable manner. On the whole, I believe that a very great detriment would take place by destroying that condition of things.

135. So far as Alston Moor is concerned, you are strongly of opinion, from what you have heard, that it would be very injurious to put on any rate whatever?—I believe it would.

136. Is there much agriculture pursued in Alston Moor?—There is not much corn grown in it; it is high land, and the town of Alton is on the highest land in the district; it is 900 feet above the sea.

137. Are you aware whether or not the poor-rates are very high in that neighbourhood?—I do not know the amount of the poor-rate in Alston.

138. Are you at all aware whether there is much discontent, generally speaking, amongst the rate-payers?—I have never heard of any.

139. You cannot speak much from your personal knowledge of that district?—No, I cannot. About 30 years ago I was resident in Alston, and was occupied there for 30 years in mining; and therefore my acquaintance with it is founded more upon that than upon recent data.

140. Supposing a poor-rate were imposed upon mines, your opinion is, that it should be imposed upon the lessor, instead of the lessee?—I think so.

141. You would not make it illegal to have an arrangement that the lessee should pay the poor-rate, if he liked?—Certainly not; there is an agreement of that kind now.

142. What is your experience, as a practical man, as to the effect of that; would you find one lessor out of 50 who would grant a lease without binding his lessee to pay the rates?—Possibly not, and so much the worse; I think it is very likely he would; I know that is the case in Weardale. When the parish imposed a rate, the agreement made previously was, that the lessee should pay all imposts whatever; and therefore, this being one of them, the lessee, Mr. Beaumont, does pay it in consequence of that agreement; and I have no doubt that it will practically come back to the lessee; and so much the worse for mining.

143. Where are Mr. Beaumont's mines principally?—His own mines are in the county of Northumberland.

144. I presume that where his mines are, he is the owner of tracts of property in the immediate neighbourhood; his landed property is not confined to his mines, but to the district generally?—He has part of the surface, but not a very large proportion; he has perhaps a ninth; I do not exactly remember now; but I dare say the Committee can form an idea from looking at the paper.

145. The object of my question is to ascertain whether the rates are principally paid by his tenantry in that neighbourhood?—Partly by his tenantry, as well as others.

146. But not the major part?—Not the major part.

147. Mr. *Bouverie.*] As to that resolution of the vestry which you read, was that the first occasion upon which those mines in Weardale were rated?—I believe it was the first time that they were rated.

148. Did the lessees whom you represent dispute their liability in any way upon that occasion?—Yes; there was a little difficulty raised about it, I think; but it was not carried to any great extent.

149. They found that they were liable, and they consented to pay; was that so?—They consented to pay; there was some little correspondence about it; but no serious difficulty arose; there was no action at law.

150. Have the leases of those mines been renewed since that occasion?—Yes.

151. Has the circumstance of the rate being payable by the lessee been taken into account in settling the payment made to the lessor?—We took it into

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account in our calculations, of course, because it is a charge of 1,000 *l.* a year, and by that charge the value of the mines is diminished.

152. In point of fact, the lessor now is the payer of the rates; it falls upon his pocket, and not upon the pocket of the lessee; is not that so?—To a certain extent it would fall in that way, if a difference were made upon that account.

153. With respect to the operation which you say the rating of mines would have in preventing mining undertakings, assuming that the rate falls upon the royalty paid to the lessor of the mine, in what way would the raising of a rate upon mines diminish adventure; if the adventure, as I understand you, is unsuccessful, that is, if nothing is made beyond the cost of the working, no rate would be paid?—No rate would be paid.

154. If, on the other hand, it is successful, then there would be a rate payable?—Yes.

155. And that rate would ultimately fall upon the lessor?—Yes; but if it fell upon the lessor, I apprehend, in making his terms, he would keep that in view; and it would be detrimental to mining in this way, that, instead of meeting an application for a reduction of the royalty, he would say, "No; I have the poor-rates to pay, and therefore I will not reduce the royalty."

156. Although, in the instance which you have given the Committee, it appears that the lessor pays the rates, you think that in ordinary circumstances it would fall upon the adventurer, and not upon the lessor?—I can hardly say that the lessor pays the rate; I say that it is an element in the computation; but in our own case it would be very difficult to say. Mr. Beaumont practically pays the rate as lessee; yet, in a computation extending over a very large property, it is not so material a point as it is in the other mines I spoke of, in mines of another description.

157. When the poor-rate was first imposed, did you find that it operated practically to prevent adventures in that district?—I should say that it did, for this reason, that we had lead at a low price, so that none but very productive mines could be worked at a profit; whatever is a charge upon the mine, restricts the limit to which the vein can be worked; if you increase the cost of the vein by any thing, you must diminish the quantity that you can work.

158. It appears from your evidence that you treat the poor-rate as a burden upon the working of the mine?—I do.

159. Whereas, as I understand it, the poor-rate is a charge upon the net produce of the mine, after paying the cost of working?—Yes; but the cost of working depends very much upon the dues which are paid, and those dues paid, I think, would be regulated by the poor-rate to a great extent.

160. Then, practically, it comes to an increase upon the cost of the working of the mine?—I think, in the long-run, in the course of time, that would be the practical effect of the measure, that it would be injurious to mining generally, and I think it would be but bad legislation.

161. In the Alston Moor district is the proportion which the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners take, a fixed proportion?—It used to be formerly one-fifth, and they ultimately reduced it to a sixth and a seventh; I believe arrangements have lately been talked of for making one-fifteenth the general proportion; it is altogether a matter of bargain; the general proportion is a seventh and an eighth.

162. I suppose, from what you say, it is practically too high a proportion?—So high, that it altogether prevents the mines being worked, unless they are very good.

163. Supposing an adventurer finds a vein beforehand, he knows what proportion the owner will take?—He knows what proportion the owner will take.

164. It is a matter of custom or bargain?—It is a matter of custom or bargain; so much is fixed upon one side of the river, and so much upon the other side of the river; it is more the custom of the district than the mine.

165. Mr. *Hume.*] In one of your answers there appears to be a contradiction; you stated that lead miners are not long lived, and then almost immediately afterwards you stated that they live beyond the average of labourers; how do you explain that?—I mean by saying that they are not long lived, that few of them arrive at extreme old age, but I believe the greater part of them exceed the average age of the ordinary population, taking that as 45; but if you take those at 70 or 80, there are but few; it will be found, on inquiry, that the average

average of deaths is about 13 per thousand, which is only about one-half of the average of the kingdom.

166. You stated that the value of the property in the neighbourhood of the mines was increased by the mines; are you quite sure that the advance of science and of agricultural knowledge in the age in which we live, has had nothing to do with the increase of the value of the agricultural property, totally irrespective of the mines?—To a certain extent, but not materially, because it is not like a purely agricultural district, where many improvements are introduced; the farms are chiefly small grazing farms; there is scarcely any corn grown, and therefore it is really in consequence of the mining population which has been induced, that the land has acquired a value at all.

167. But although there is no corn grown, there is a great deal of what is called grass land, that is, pasturage for cattle?—A great deal.

168. Is not the labouring population in a pasturage country less thick than it would be in a tillage country?—It is.

169. The rating of mines, you say, would work to the disadvantage of the mines; does not that apply to all property; for instance, would not the rating of farms work to the disadvantage of farming, or the rating of houses in towns to the disadvantage of building speculations; does not it bear equally upon all property?—Yes; of course any rate imposed upon anything, to a certain extent, is a disadvantage; but what I was desirous to express was this, that there are peculiar circumstances connected with the geological condition of the veins under the surface, which only admit of their being worked at a particular time; and if by any means you are compelled to leave a portion of the mineral underground at the present time, you cannot go back for it afterwards, and consequently that mineral is lost altogether; it is in that point of view I wish to explain the peculiarity as regards mining, otherwise the rate is an expense, upon whatever it falls, and is so far a disadvantage; but upon mining there is a peculiar reason why I think it would operate practically and disadvantageously to a considerable extent.

170. Do not you think, as a general rule, that property of all kinds ought to maintain its own poverty?—It is found that in the north of England it does do so, to a very great extent.

171. Is it or not an equitable principle that property, no matter of what sort, ought to maintain its own poverty?—As a general principle, I should say it is; It appears to me almost an axiom, so far as the general principle is concerned.

172. You stated that the land in Allandale was very poor; that, in fact, it was only fit for grouse?—The surface.

173. If it had not been for the mines, there would have been no population indigenous to such a soil?—Very little.

174. The population, you were understood to say, is now very thick, in consequence of the mines?—I am not aware that I said that the population was very thick; I said that the population was more dense in the northern part not connected with the mines; but a population of only 6,000 in a large parish of 60 square miles, cannot be called thick.

175. At all events, but for the mines the population would have been very small indeed upon a soil that is only fitted for the growth of grouse?—Very small.

176. Supposing there were none other than the agricultural population in the neighbouring district, would there not be much less pauperism to maintain than that now arising out of the property engendered by the mining population?—There are no farmers in the district but what are so mixed up, if I may say so, with the mining conditions of the case, that if it were not for the mines there would be no farming population either, except to a very small degree; if there were an agricultural population altogether clear of and distinct from the mines, and not intimately mixed up and certainly half dependent upon the mines, then I admit that the case will apply very strongly as it is put; but in this parish the value of the land, and the existence of what farmers there are, are matters almost equally mixed up with and dependent upon the mines; certainly if the mines were not there, they would be in a great measure done away with.

177. You stated that poor men beginning without capital are very frequently obliged to abandon the mines for want of capital?—They are.

178. Is not that the consequence of a spirit of gambling?—Certainly not; if a man undertakes a matter in the business that he has been brought up to, and sees

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sees the probability of obtaining a mine, and can get some assistance to enable him to go on to the necessary extent, I do not see much gambling in that.

179. But beginning without capital, and then failing, and throwing the burden of pauperism upon the agricultural district around, is not a desirable course, I presume?—He may be a pauper to begin with. As to his being without capital, I mentioned that those adventurers usually get some people to join them with money, themselves residing in the district, having no capital but their labour, but getting assistance from other districts to a certain extent.

180. Mr. *Spooner.*] You were understood to say, that if mines were rated at all, they ought to be rated upon the dues paid to the landlord?—It is the only feasible way that I see in our district of collecting the rate.

181. Do you conceive that the dues paid to the landlord are to be compared to the rent of a farm paid by the tenant to the landlord; are they to be viewed in the same light as to rating?—No, I think not; I think the two things do not admit of comparison, inasmuch as a farm is a matter that admits of continued occupation from year to year, and from century to century; whereas a mine is altogether different. The very large expenditure which takes place in the employment of a great number of workmen in matters that are frequently productive of no benefit to anybody at all, is a very great advantage to a district, and, I think, destroys altogether any means of comparison between a mine and a farm.

182. Do not you conceive that the dues which are paid are, in point of fact, an exhaustion of the property?—Certainly.

183. The mining is an exhaustion of the property?—Yes.

184. The rent of a farm is not an exhaustion of the property?—Certainly not.

185. Should you think that that which, in point of fact, is part of the capital, and not profit, should, if assessed at all, be assessed at the same rate as that property is assessed which can be always subject to rating, and always the subject of profitable occupation?—I should say that it would be very injurious legislation to do so, and wrong in principle.

186. And would be very unjust?—I think so.

187. Then when you say that the poor-rates should be laid upon the dues paid to the landlord, you state that with the qualification which you have now made, do you not?—I state, certainly, that whatever rate is levied should be levied upon the dues; but my opinion is strong that no rate should be levied at all.

188. Would you rate it in the same proportion in amount; I would not rate it at all; therefore it comes to nothing as representing my views.

189. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Is the machinery rated in Weardale on the produce of the mine?—We are rated only upon the commutation which we pay; we are required to pay the dues in kind; those dues are not practically taken in kind; they are commuted upon a yearly sum, that sum being upon a long period of time—upon the lifetime of the incumbency of the late Bishop of Durham, and the lifetime of the rector. The two payments we make are subject to commutation, and they are rated upon the sum which we commute for.

190. That includes the whole apparatus of the mine, as well as the materials?—Ours is a rating upon the materials; they take the amount which we pay upon commutation, and rate us upon that; and in the rate-book it is two-thirds upon the amount of commutation which we pay.

191. Mr. *Spooner.*] Can you state that the dues paid to the landlord are the result of the profits of the mine?—I cannot say that.

192. I understood you to state that in answer to a question put to you by Mr. Bouverie?—When a mine is working at a profit, of course the dues are a part of that profit; but it sometimes happens, and in fact frequently happens, that the dues are paid where no profit is made, that is to say, the mine may be worked at a loss.

193. It is often worked at a great loss, and then the lessees pay upon the produce of that mine, without any respect to whether that produce is gained at a loss or a profit?—Certainly.

194. *Chairman.*] Then the landlord does not look at the profit at all; he merely looks at the quantum of ore raised, upon which the adventurer pays; a certain proportion is paid upon the ore raised, without any reference to whether it is raised at a loss or a profit?—Just so.

195. Supposing that mines ought to be rated, and that the lessor should pay the poor-rate, according to your view he ought not to be rated in the same way that the occupier of a farm is rated, because one is a reproducing, and the other is not a reproducing property?—Exactly so.

196. Supposing the lessor is to be rated to the poor-rate, seeing that he every year parts with a certain proportion of his fee (for so it is), what, in your opinion, would be a fair proportion for him to pay; if he should not pay upon the whole of his royalty, what would you say should be the payment?—I scarcely know upon what general principle to state that, because in practice we vary; but I should say one-half.

197. You have spoken of some mines being successful, and some unsuccessful; taking the mines with which you have been connected, as a whole, have the investments been profitable investments, or not?—I believe in the north of England, generally speaking, and more particularly as to those mines in Alston Moor, quite as much has been spent in dead or unproductive work as anything that has been realized. The margin of profit, if any, has been very small, generally speaking. The mines under my immediate charge have been profitably worked for many years.

198. Then, if I understand you, you cannot speak confidently as to Alston Moor; it is only an idea?—I speak of Alston Moor partly from my own knowledge of it, and partly from Mr. Taylor's information, who is acquainted with it; that is the opinion expressed in his book.

199. Have the mines in Allandale been profitable?—In Allandale the mines have been profitable.

200. Who are the parties that work the mines in Allandale; do adventurers speculate there?—Mr. Beaumont; it is his own property.

201. He speculates entirely?—He speculates entirely.

202. You stated just now, that your impression was, that, under the Act of Elizabeth, all mineral mines, save coal mines, were expressly omitted from the poor-rate, in order to encourage skilful foreigners?—I have no doubt of it.

203. That reason does not exist now; we do not want to encourage foreigners?—No; but we want to encourage the production of metals, because tin and iron and lead are the chief things upon which the industry of the people is to be employed. I say that it is the object of the Legislature to make those as cheap as possible, because they are the means of employing the industry of other people. You find that foreign countries are reducing in every way they can the cost of the production of metals, on which account I think the industry of this country will be injured by every addition that is made to the cost of the production of metals at home.

204. Have you had much experience in the way of giving advice to parties who have been speculating throughout England in mining operations?—I have occasionally; not, however, to any great extent; my time is chiefly occupied by Mr. Beaumont.

205. When you have been called in to advise other parties who have been about to speculate and lay out their capital in the exploration of lands in various parts of England, have you ever known them make particular inquiries as to the poor-rates, or have they not gone into the speculation without reference to the poor-rates, so far as they were concerned?—I have not been much in the habit of advising or consulting with parties in that way; but in most of the cases in which I have been referred to, I have been able to say point blank, "You had better keep out of it altogether;" that advice I gave to a noble Lord yesterday.

206. In speaking of losses, you referred to the case of Hudgill Burn, and stated that the first loss there was a loss of 2,000 *l.*?—It was.

207. Was that ascertained after a full debtor and creditor account had been taken?—I presume so.

208. Sometimes cases of loss are stated in the accounts which do not comprise the ores raised at the same time?—There were none in that case; it was all outlay; you will find the particulars of the cost in that book; the details are given there item by item.

209. Mr. *Ridley*.] You say that Mr. Beaumont has great smelting works?—Yes.

210. Where are they?—There are two in Allandale, and one in Weardale; we pay rates upon them, and I think very properly.

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211. You stated that the poor-rate in Allandale is in round numbers, 2,000 *l.*?—About that.

212. What proportion of that rate is paid by Mr. Beaumont's smelting works?—We pay 104 *l.* 18 *s.* 4 *d.* for the three mills, two being in Allandale and one in Weardale; we also pay highway rate, 21 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

213. Have you any return or statement of the number of miners who have come upon the poor-rate in Allandale?—No, I have not.

214. What is about the rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers in Allandale?—There are very few purely agricultural labourers; most of the farms are occupied by miners or smelters, and people connected with those works. They are partly occupied in the works and partly in farming; and those who are separate farmers, have horses and carts, which they draw ore with, and so forth. There is not much employment as agricultural labourers; it is not an agricultural district at all in that point of view.

215. When you said that each individual investment was made in the miner's own name, you meant, I suppose, not when the whole balance is invested, but that each miner gives voluntarily as he likes to the fund?—The money is invested as the fund of the club; but the miners themselves have it placed to their own account in the books; a book is kept wherein each contribution is stated. I did not mean to say that in the investment with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, or in the books of the savings bank, the money is placed in each miner's name.

216. *Chairman.*] But can he draw more than he has placed in the book, adding to it the five per cent. first of all, and two per cent. afterwards?—Yes, by all means. I misunderstood the way in which the question was put. What I meant to say was, that the miner invests his money by putting it into his club; and if it is there placed in his own name, that is merely for the purpose of regulating the accounts of the society as regards what he has so put; but the club is liable to pay a certain rate per week during the man's sickness, and a certain sum at his death, entirely independent of the amount which he has paid.

217. Then if that be the case, how can one miner be expected to pay more than another; you said that, according to what each miner paid, so Mr. Beaumont gave him a total per-centage?—I mean upon the total payments of the year. Suppose the men altogether contribute, say 300 *l.*, Mr. Beaumont would pay 15 *l.*

218. With regard to the parish of Stanhope, have you spoken of that from your own knowledge?—Yes.

219. Taking the poor-rates and the other rates that they have paid for the last 20 years, you put the sum at 1,000 *l.* a year?—I put it at 1,000 *l.*; I have the figures here, 1,080 *l.*

220. What would the effect be if that rating were done away with; upon whom would that burden fall; upon the agriculturists?—It would fall upon the agriculturists.

221. Do you think it would be fair upon the agriculturists that that burden should be thrown upon them?—I have stated already that, as regards those mines of Mr. Beaumont's, I think they are rather an exception to the north of England mining generally; and I certainly do not put the same stress upon the case as relates to those mines of Mr. Beaumont's that I do upon the lead mines generally in the north, taking the north of England mining district as a whole. I think in Weardale, speaking of Stanhope, the thing now has got arranged, so that of course they would feel it oppressive if an alteration were made.

222. Not only would they feel it oppressive, but it would really be oppressive, would it not?—I do not know that it would. I think so long as the mines are paying a large profit, it would not be oppressive to them, because there would be no reason to alter the rate of working. But if lead came down to the average price of lead for the last 40 or 50 years, and it became necessary to reduce the number of workmen, then I say, upon a business-like calculation of the cost of working the mine, the number of men that would have to be discharged would be greater, in consequence of every additional charge upon the mine, and, therefore, the loss accruing from that would be larger than the benefit which the ratepayers get from the 1,000 *l.* a year; that is my idea. But in the case

of

of a very extensive district, where they have never paid rates, and where rates are to be imposed for the first time, I think it would operate very injuriously. *T. Sopwith*, Esq. 26 February 1857.

223. You stated just now that you thought it more than possible, and very probable, that if any additional tax were put on to lead mines, as the demarcation is now well defined, according to the price of ore, as to what they can take out with profit, and what they cannot take out with profit, every particle of ore that is not taken out would be so much lost, inasmuch as the opportunity would be gone of taking that ore away?—Yes; in a very great number of cases that would be so.

224. You are aware that in every mine in England, whether of copper, lead, tin, or any other ore, the quantity obtained in almost every year is according to the standard of value of the ore, so that there are certain portions left behind which will not pay for working, and the opportunity is gone for ever for taking them out?—Yes.

225. So that the quantity obtained will vary with the standard; the price of the ore will affect that as much as anything?—Yes.

226. Mr. *Ridley*.] Have you any further observations which you wish to make to the Committee?—No; I do not know that I can add anything further. I have looked at this question as one altogether of general interest, though I merely wish to state to the Committee what I know of mining in the north of England.

Martis, 9° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. George Cavendish.	Mr. Kendall.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. W. O. Foster	Mr. Michael Williams.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Bouverie.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Walton Bainbridge, Esq., called in; and Examined.

227. Mr. *Ridley*.] I BELIEVE you have been for a long time resident in the mining dales of the north of England?—Yes, all my life. *R. W. Bainbridge*, Esq. 9 June 1857.

228. In Alston Moor?—Yes, for the first 30 years of my life, and in Teesdale for the last 20.

229. Were you a partner in the offices of the law agents of the London Lead Company?—Yes, with my late father and uncle; I was junior partner.

230. Upon the establishment of a branch office at Middleton, did you take upon yourself the management of those law offices?—Yes; the management of them was entrusted to my personal care, my residence being best adapted for it.

231. Afterwards, I believe you had placed in your hands the superintendence of the lead works?—Yes, on the retirement of my father-in-law.

232. So that during the whole of your life you have been actively engaged in lead mining operations, and have been conversant with them?—Yes.

233. Will you give me, if you please, your view of the law relating to the rating of mines, as laid down by Lord Mansfield in a judgment given by him?—The lead company I have the honour of serving, were the parties concerned in that case. My impression is, that the Legislature in the time of Elizabeth intended to exempt lead mines, and that for the reasons assigned by Lord Mansfield and the other judges who sat on the bench on that occasion, on account of the great risk and uncertainty connected with them, and for the encouragement of industry, and the promotion of a branch of industry calculated to give employment to the residents of the country, and to promote the national wealth, the Legislature, I believe, intended to exempt lead mines; I conceive that there were good grounds for that exemption, and that those grounds still exist.

234. The lords' dues were still rateable to the poor, were they not, if paid in kind?—Yes; the judgment in the case of Rolls *v.* Gells, so decided.

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235. What was that decision?—The ground of the decision was this, I believe, coal mines being named, all other mines were considered as exempt, but in the statute of Elizabeth, the term lands is made use of; it was conceived by lawyers upon that occasion, that when the ore was rendered in kind, it came under the denomination of land, and on that ground the lord was taxed; but I conceive that that is an evasion of the principle of the statute of Elizabeth.

236. I believe the London Lead Company carry on their mining operations principally in Alston Moor, Teesdale, and also in Westmoreland?—Yes, in Weardale, and Westmoreland, but chiefly in Alston Moor and Teesdale.

237. I will direct your attention first of all, if you please, to the Alston district; under whom do the London Lead Company hold in the Alston Moor district?—Under Greenwich Hospital.

238. Do you hold on long leases?—Leases for 21 years, at a reservation of one-seventh in kind.

239. Are the lord's dues payable whether the mine is profitable or not in your case?—Yes; the reservation is of a seventh of the ore raised, regardless whether the mine be profitable or profitless to the adventurers.

240. Do the miners under the London Lead Company work for wages, or do they make ventures on their own account, as they do in some other parts of Alston Moor?—They work for wages on prospective bargains; we let the bargains to the men quarterly, or rather, we let them to the men three times a year; we give them so much per fathom for the ground cut, or so much for the ore raised, according to the richness or hardness of the ground.

241. Do you work your mines in the Alston Moor by horizontal drivings or shafts?—By horizontal drivings. The country is mountainous, and we take advantage of the valley, and drive in horizontal adits to our objects; and in doing so we sometimes consume 20 or 25 years; I have known some cases in which the lease has run out before the object has been attained.

242. Then you do not work by shafts at all under the company?—Only for ventilation; when we have attained a certain point, we put down a shaft from the surface, for the purpose of ventilation.

243. What induces you to go on for so long a time without making a profit?—Because we have the hope that we shall reap profit ultimately.

244. Do you find that to be the case sometimes?—We find it occasionally to be the case, though in a majority of instances we are disappointed; I should say that 19 cases out of 20 disappoint us.

245. You are speaking now of working lead mines?—Yes, when we meet with a good mine, that generally speaking, affords us a return that covers the losses elsewhere.

246. You are able, are you not, to speak to the whole of the mining operations in the Alston Moor district?—Yes, I have obtained information regarding the general yearly expenditure in the Alston Moor district.

247. What is the amount of the general mining operations in the Alston Moor district?—About 70,000 *l.* per annum.

248. Does that 70,000 *l.* include only the wages?—It is the whole aggregate cost.

249. What portion of that money is expended by the company?—From 30,000 *l.* to 35,000 *l.*; last year it was very nearly 35,000 *l.*, but I should say from 30,000 *l.* to 35,000 *l.*, taking the average of years.

250. Can you state the corresponding amount of mining produce?—I have ascertained the quantity of ore raised, and valuing that ore at the average sale price given in the district, I find it amounts to from 80,000 *l.* to 82,000 *l.*, that is the sale price of the produce of the mines, the produce of the mines in fact, amounts to from 80,000 *l.* to 82,000 *l.*

251. Is that on the average of years?—That was the case in 1856. I have the average from 1850 to 1855, and there is no material difference.

252. Mr. *Foster*.] It would depend upon the selling price of the ore?—Yes.

253. And that varies, of course?—Yes, it varies very materially.

254. Mr. *Ridley*.] Can you give any figures relating to the mining produce?—At Alston Moor, the yearly average of the mining produce for the last five years is 15,640 bings, two bings and a half go to the ton, I have got it calculated in tons.

255. You say that the produce of the mine has been 82,000 *l.* on an average?—Yes, 82,110 *l.*, taking five guineas as the average price per bing, which is close upon the price that the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital obtain on the sale of their duty ores, so that the produce of the mines amounted to 82,110 *l.*

256. What

256. What is the total amount of dues paid to the lords?—The lords' dues amount to 11,730 *l.*, which, deducted from the 82,110 *l.*, leaves 70,380 *l.* for the adventurers; in fact, only amounting to their expenditure. The actual expenditure equals the income from the whole of that mining district, and that district has hitherto been considered one of the most important lead districts in the north. *R. W. Bainbridge, Esq.* 9 June 1857.

257. Are the lords' dues in the north of England very much higher than they are in the south?—Yes, they are generally much higher.

258. Can you explain to the Committee from what cause that has arisen?—We conceive that it has arisen from the nature of the country; our country being one of hill and dale, the lead mines would be discoverable in the ravines or rivulets, a couple of centuries back; the miners at that time would have easy access to the lead, and it would not require a large expenditure to win a mine; and consequently parties who discovered the existence of veins would be ready to give a very high rate of due to the lords for the opportunity of winning them. At that time, the tradition is, that there was a great deal of float ore which was very easy of attainment.

259. What is float ore?—Ore coming out at the surface.

260. At the present time, the expenses to the adventurer of winning his profit out of the mine is very largely increased, is it not?—Very greatly increased indeed.

261. But at the same time, the lords' dues remain as they were?—Not precisely so. I can recollect when the lords' dues were one-fifth in kind.

262. Was that under Greenwich Hospital?—Yes; from one-fifth they were reduced to one-sixth; and about 10 or 15 years ago they were reduced again to one-seventh; and we have at present an application before the Commissioners, or rather we have strongly drawn the attention of the Commissioners to the propriety of still further reducing the dues; we conceive that the lords go for the lion's share of the mines, and leave to the adventurers little but hope.

263. How many mines are there altogether at work on Alston Moor?—Sixty-two altogether, viewing the lead company's all as one, though we may be said to have not less than 10 mines; but treating them as ten adventures, I should say there would not be less really than 70 altogether in Alston Moor, and of those 70 there are only three that are profitable. I should state, that of the 62 mines, there are 35 that are yielding dues to the lords, but no profits to the adventurers.

264. Have you any statement in figures that you would wish to put in to the Committee, showing the statistics relating to Alston Moor district?—Yes. (*The Witness delivered in a Paper.*) *Vide* Appendix.

265. Are there any new trials of mining going on there?—There are 24 new trials in progress, which up to the present moment have yielded nothing to the lords.

266. Can you state the existing value of rateable property in the parish of Alston?—£. 10,108. 3 *s.* 4 *d.* is the aggregate amount.

267. Are you able to make any calculation of what would be the amount that would be paid by the mining adventurers, supposing the poor-rate was leviable upon the productions of the mines, or upon the lords' dues?—The mines would pay the better half; the mines would at present pay on 11,170 *l.*, while the lands would only pay on 10,108 *l.* It may be stated, in general terms, one-half.

268. I believe that the mining revenues of the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners, being devoted to charitable purposes, are not rateable to poor-rates?—That is the case.

269. Therefore, if a rate is put upon the produce of the lead-mines in that district, it must necessarily come upon the adventurers?—I should conceive so, unless the Legislature should provide specially for the case; and even under the terms of the leases granted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, I should apprehend that there would be danger of the adventurers being saddled with the rates.

270. That would be under the terms of the lease?—Yes, granted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to the adventurers; for in that lease the adventurers covenant that they will pay all rates that may be charged upon the mines, or upon the subject demised.

271. If that were so, do you think the effect would be to induce the company to discontinue the working of any of its mines?—With regard to Alston Moor, I should say that it would have a very prejudicial influence on the minds of the directors of the lead company; for the lead company have in past years done all they possibly could, not only for the comfortable maintenance and future provision of their workmen, but for the elevation of their moral status. In the first instance,

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instance, in the way of promotion of employment; in the next place, in the relief of their workmen in times of sickness and old age, and in finding medical attendance for them. The lead company in the year 1817 established a sick fund throughout the whole of their works.

272. I will ask you further about that presently. Do you know whether it has been contemplated by the lead company up to the present time ever to abandon any portion of the working of their mines on Alston Moor?—I cannot speak to the precise date, but I should say, that about 30 years ago the mines were so poor, that the directors of the lead company contemplated their abandonment, and it was with great difficulty that they were induced by their then superintending agent to continue the working of them.

273. When was that?—About 30 years ago; I cannot speak to the precise time.

274. Was that in consequence of the mines at Alston Moor being of so unprofitable a character?—Yes, it was in consequence of their being so poor.

275. Do you think that if an additional burthen were now laid upon them, it would give rise to that consideration again, and might lead them to abandon some portion of the works?—Yes, I should conceive that it would be calculated to have that effect. We are now just in that position in which any additional burthen imposed upon the lead company would have a tendency to influence the minds of the directors against the continuance of the same spirited operations in the district that they have hitherto been conducting. It would have a tendency to narrow our feelings and considerations generally.

276. You have alluded to the sick fund and benefit fund in the Alston Moor district; will you state, if you please, to the Committee, the facts relating to that fund more at large than you have yet done?—The lead company's fund is not only applicable to Alston Moor, but to all the district where the company hold mines. It was established in the year 1817, and the object of it was to provide a maintenance for workmen in times of sickness and an annuity in old age, to give a donation to the widows of the workmen and the funeral expenses, and also to provide medical attendance and medicine for the workmen, and for the whole of their families. In the course of a few years that fund, like many others, was found to have been established on too liberal a basis; that is, the payments out were too large for the payments in, and in the course of a few years the fund became insolvent. In consequence of that insolvency the lead company took the matter into their consideration, and then the whole subject was submitted to an actuary, and the whole arrangements were revised. That led to a determination to relieve the fund of the payments to the doctors; and at this present moment the lead company are contributing yearly about 650 *l.* for medical attendance and medicine to the workmen and their families. That they contribute irrespective of the sick fund.

277. Do the miners themselves contribute towards that fund?—They contribute 30 *s.* per year per man. The lead company, in order to relieve the fund of the insolvency, made it compulsory upon every member of the fund to pay an additional 6 *s.* a year, they agreeing at the same time that they would contribute a sum equal to the aggregate of all those 6 *s.*, and also 200 *l.* a year, until the fund had regained its solvency; and from that time up to the present the lead company have, in round numbers, contributed 8,000 *l.* towards that fund.

278. Can you state to the Committee the amount of the capital of that fund at the present moment?—The amount of the capital in the fund, in the year ending in October 1856, was 25,343 *l.* 9 *s.* 5 *d.*

279. Out of that fund, when a man becomes sick or unable to work, he is entitled to relief, is he not?—Yes, he is entitled to 7 *s.* a week.

280. If he did not receive that, I presume he would have to go to the poor-house?—Yes, if he had not himself made a provision for the future.

281. Then that is of course in itself a very large relief to the poor fund?—It is a very large relief to the poor-rates generally in the district.

282. Do you think that if you put a charge for the poor-rates that made the produce of these mines rateable to poor-rates, it would have the effect of deteriorating the amount and value of this benefit fund as now existing?—I should conceive it would.

283. Of course out of the fund as it now exists all those who have contributed to it would be entitled to relief from it?—Yes.

284. But do you think that that would have the effect of stopping the increase of

of this fund, or the commencing any new period for its continuance?—Yes; up to the present time it has been compulsory upon every workman in the company's employment to enter the fund; we do not allow them an option, but if the lead mines should be burthened with rates, then I conceive, we should leave it optional with the men, whether they did or did not enter the fund: and the probability is, that they would conceive that they would have to bear their share of the whole rate, and that they would not contribute to their own separate maintenance, for that would be placing them in a position in which they would have, as it were, two liabilities; first, a liability to contribute to the fund, and next, as many of our miners are themselves occupiers of land, they would have to contribute to the poor-rate as well.

285. Besides this benefit and sick fund, what do you do relating to the education of the miners under your employment?—In the two districts of Alston Moor and Teesdale we provide a school and a schoolmaster, and everything connected with the school. Those two schools are adapted for the locality wherein the largest number of our men happen to be located; but inasmuch as the men are scattered over a wide district of country, we contribute to the local schools at the rate of 3*s.* a quarter for every child taught belonging to the company's workmen.

286. Do you pay the schoolmasters of those schools?—Yes, we pay the schoolmasters; we pay one of them a salary of 120*l.* a year, and the other a salary of 100*l.* a year. We find the school; we keep it clean and in order; we find stationery and books, and everything connected with the education of the children. I should state to the Committee that we charge every workman 1*s.* per quarter for each of his children taught at the school; that 1*s.* a quarter about covers the stationery.

287. Have you any rule which obliges a miner to send his children to these schools or to some school?—Yes, we make it compulsory on every miner that he should send his children to school from six to twelve years of age in the case of boys; and from six to fourteen, or so long as they may remain under the paternal roof, in the case of girls; the increase of years in the case of girls arising from a desire on our part to have them as monitors in the schools; for the master who has charge of from 150 to 200 children is of course personally incapable of teaching the whole of them without the aid of monitors. Perhaps I may say, in round figures, that the company contribute 400*l.* a year towards the education of the children of the workmen.

288. Is that in the two districts?—In the four districts; 220*l.* a year direct to the two masters; and I cannot speak to the precise figures, but I should say about a sum equivalent to that to the several local schools that are scattered about where the miners are living.

289. I will now direct your attention to the other large district, the Teesdale district; under whom do you lease in that district?—Under the Duke of Cleveland, Mr. Hutchinson, and Mr. Bowes.

290. Do you hold long leases?—Leases for 21 years in the case of the Duke of Cleveland and Mr. Hutchinson, and 31 years in the case of Mr. Bowes; with a covenant in each lease for a renewal of the term on the expiration of the lease.

291. Are the dues reserved in money or in kind?—The dues are reserved in money.

292. Upon what basis?—Upon the basis, in the case of the Duke of Cleveland, of one-sixth in kind; and in the case of Mr. Hutchinson, on the basis of one-sixth as to a portion of the old opened mine, and one-eighth with respect to all new opened mine; and Mr. Bowes one-eighth.

293. That again is very much larger than it is in the south of England, I believe; do you know the average rate of lords' dues in the south of England?—I only know it by hearsay; I have no personal knowledge of it.

294. What is the number of mines in the Teesdale district?—In the Teesdale district there are 16 mines.

295. How many of those are yielding profits?—Five of them are yielding profits; and 11 are paying dues, but not yielding profits.

296. What is the amount of lords' dues in Teesdale?—The lead company paid in lords' dues in Teesdale last year nearly 16,000*l.*

297. I believe it may be said tha this is almost the only profitable district that

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that the London Lead Company has; is that so?—Yes, all the other districts are at present unremunerative, with the exception of the Teesdale. Westmoreland and Weardale, they are unremunerative, but as to Westmoreland, I may say that the lead company have been for above a quarter of a century speculating there, and expending 7,000 *l.* or 8,000 *l.* a year, and up to the present year, never realised in any one year the amount of that year's expenditure.

298. What induces you to go on mining there?—The hope of ultimately reaching something better, no doubt.

299. Confining your attention at present to the Teesdale district only, can you give me the amount of your annual expenditure there?—About 50,000 *l.*

300. That you say is the great district from which you derive profit?—Yes; the only district.

301. Can you tell the Committee the amount of sale produce?—The produce of those mines last year would amount to from 95,000 *l.* to 100,000 *l.*; but since I have come to the agency of the lead company, there have been many years wherein the expenditure exceeds the income from this one district.

302. What are the lords' dues?—We paid 15,789 *l.* for lords' dues last year.

303. Then adding to that 15,000 *l.*, the amount of expenditure you have in round numbers, a total sum of 30,000 *l.*?—Yes, perhaps it may be interesting to the Committee to know what have been our average payments for lords' dues for the last 10 years, I have the figures prepared with reference to the two most important districts of the lead company. (*The Witness delivered in a Paper.*)

Vide Appendix.

304. Can you tell me the annual value of the rateable property in Teesdale?—£. 7,900 odd; say 8,000 *l.*

305. What is the amount of poor-rate?—The annual value of rated property is 7,930 *l.*, the amount of the poor-rate levied last year was 980 *l.*, and there was a highway rate of 165 *l.*, making together 1,145 *l.*

306. That is between 2*s.* and 3*s.* in the pound, is it not?—Yes, about 3*s.* in the pound, and the highway rate is about 6*d.* in the pound.

307. Are they owners of the surface also?—Of a considerable portion. I should say the lords are the owners of the major portion of the surface.

308. I will ask you one or two questions about Westmoreland; have you anything to add to the statement you have made, that for the length of time you have worked it, it has generally been an unprofitable speculation?—The lords' dues, I should say, in Westmoreland are not so heavy as they are in Teesdale; the Earl of Lonsdale has reduced his dues to an eleventh in lead, and Sir Richard Turton, to a ninth in lead.

309. Do you wish to give any further statement in detail respecting your mining operations in Weardale?—Our operations there are so very limited that they can scarcely have a bearing upon this question; we hold a portion of the mines along with Mr. Beaumont, under the Bishop of Durham, and other mines under the Manchester Fire Office, the mortgagees of Mr. Ripon's estate; perhaps the Committee will allow me to remark, with respect to Teesdale, that if there should be an assessment to the poor on account of lords' dues, the mines would contribute two-thirds of the whole amount of the poor-rate, only leaving to the lands one-third of the present burden; whilst in Teesdale, at this moment, the lead company are, through the medium of the medical attendance they find, and in other ways, contributing about 800 *l.* a year towards the sick of the workmen, and towards medical attendance on the workmen and their families.

310. That being *pro tanto* a relief to the poor-rate?—Yes, it certainly is so.

311. Can you give the Committee any approximation at all to the amount that you spend annually in exploring for new veins and new ventures?—I should say we spend from 13,000 *l.* to 20,000 *l.* or 22,000 *l.* a year; I have a statement which shows that precisely, from 1845 to 1856. In 1845 the lead company spent 18,000 *l.* in the working; in 1846 they spent 15,000 *l.*; in 1847, 15,000 *l.*; in 1848, 16,000 *l.*; in 1849, 13,000 *l.*; in 1850, 13,000 *l.*; in 1851, 17,000 *l.*; in 1852, 21,000 *l.*; in 1853, 17,000 *l.*; in 1854, 14,800 *l.*; in 1855, 19,560 *l.*; in 1856, 22,376 *l.* I have merely given you the first figures; I have them precisely. I have here an epitome, drawn out in our own offices for the satisfaction of the directors of the lead company, in order that they might see to what particular objects their expenditure was applied.

312. Is that the sum which has been spent annually by the lead company in exploring for new veins?—Yes, in ground, for the time being, yielding no ore; in

in what we term dead work; it is for opening new ground. It may be said that we expend from 15,000 *l.* to 20,000 *l.* in opening new ground, with a view to provide for the future.

313. Which explorings you for a very long time continue without deriving any profit at all, or perhaps finding anything like a lead vein?—Yes; I have known some of those trials where there has been 10,000 *l.* or 15,000 *l.* spent, and never an ounce of ore yielded; the object has entirely failed.

314. I suppose it is necessary for the lead company, viewing their possession as a permanent one, and looking to the future, to continue to be making these exploring surveys and incurring these expenses?—Yes. In the event of our discontinuing those explorations, we should very soon find that we were at an end, that the old opened mines would become exhausted and worked out, and we should have nothing to work upon; so that the lead company are always obliged to have regard to the future.

315. Do you think that putting a rate upon the adventurers in mines would tend to check that system of exploring?—I should conceive, with regard to progressive trials, that is, trials that have been commenced 10, 15, 20, or 25 years ago, and have not yet reached their object, that it would be an act of great injustice now to impose a burden upon them, which burden was not in existence at the time of the commencement of the speculation. I think that that would be an act of very great injustice, and that it would not only be unjust but impolitic.

316. Can you give the Committee the statement of how much you spend in carrying ore from the lead mine down to the smelting works?—Last year we spent 2,099 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* in the carriage of ore to the smelting works; and in the carriage of lead from the mills to the shipping port, 3,168 *l.*

317. Have you a staff of your own in carts and horses for the purpose of that carriage, or do you hire, as occasion requires?—We hire of the occupiers of land in the neighbourhood; we hire of them for the purpose, paying to them certain rates between certain localities; perhaps I ought to state, that of this 3,168 *l.* the whole does not go to those small carriers, but, taking it in round figures, I should say that 1,000 *l.* at least goes to the railway parties; so that the small owners and occupiers of land would not, of this 3,168 *l.*, have more than 2,000 *l.* I cannot speak to the precise figures, but I think they would have about two-thirds, and the railway companies the other third; but with regard to the ore that is carried, that is exclusively in the hands of the local occupiers of land.

318. Supposing this mineral produce to become liable to poor-rates, upon whom do you think the burden should be placed, or upon whom should it be levied?—My opinion is, that the burden ought not to be placed upon any one, but that there would be less injustice in placing it upon the lord than upon the adventurer, and that there would be less impolicy in it also. I think, however, that it would not be good policy to place it upon either, for an unburdened lord is in a position to grant more liberal terms to his adventurers than a burdened lord is. I think that the less hardship of the two would be to place it upon the lord.

319. As regards existing leases and arrangements, what course, in your judgment, ought to be taken?—I should say, with regard to existing leases, that inasmuch as the adventurer has not hitherto been charged, and has had no reason to suppose that he would be charged, it would be unjust that he should bear any portion of the burden.

320. How would that be affected by such leases as those by which you hold under the Duke of Cleveland?—My impression is, that under the lease which we hold under the Duke of Cleveland, in case the mines as mines were charged with the rate, the burden would fall, according to the letter of the lease, exclusively upon the adventurer, for in those leases the lessees have covenanted that they will pay all rates that may be imposed upon the subject demised; the adventurer agreed to that from a knowledge that the law up to that time had placed the burden exclusively upon the lord, and they did not conceive it possible that Parliament would put it upon any other party.

321. Up to the determination of such a lease as that which you hold under the Duke of Cleveland, you are decidedly of opinion that the rate ought not to be put upon the adventurer?—Certainly, that is my opinion. Although we might have great confidence in the liberality and fair dealing of a gentleman like the Duke of Cleveland, yet as his estate is an entailed estate, he has not only to consider

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sider what are fitting arrangements with regard to himself, but with regard to those who are to come after him in his entail, and it is quite possible that his Grace might entertain this view: "According to the letter of the lease the adventurer has agreed to be liable; it would not be right in me as tenant for life to touch that arrangement; I must leave it as the law and your own agreement has put it; I do not conceive it fitting that I should be placed in such a position as that the party who comes after me in the enjoyment of the estate shall say, I have departed from what was the pre-arranged and settled agreement." A tenant in tail would have more difficulty in dealing with it than an absolute owner.

322. Can you state what is the whole amount of lords' dues paid by the lead company for their four districts?—It amounts to about 23,000*l.* a year. In Teesdale the rental for the last year was 15,790*l.*; in Weardale 695*l.* In Alston Moor we rendered the dues in kind; by valuing it at the average sale rates of the hospital, I see it amounts to 4,915*l.* In Westmoreland the lords' dues amounted to 371*l.*; making a total for the year of 21,771*l.* paid to lords for dues.

323. Can you state what was the total expenditure of the lead company in those same districts?—Yes. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to say that ten years ago the payments made by the lead company amounted only to 9,952*l.*, and of that sum there was only paid in Teesdale 4,068*l.* If you contrast those figures, you will see how the relief to the poor-rates will fluctuate; you will see that at one period there will be a very large relief in aid of the poor-rate, and at another period it will be comparatively small. It will be small at the time when there is the greatest need for a large contribution, and it will be large at a time when the whole mining district is in such a state of prosperity, agriculturally and otherwise, as that they would not find the poor-rates a burden. When there is abundance of employment at good wages, which is always the consequence of good mines, then the whole district is in a prosperous state, and particular burdens are not felt individually; but in case there is an adverse turn with the mines, when the lords' dues necessarily fall short, then the whole district necessarily becomes poor, and then every outgoing is severely felt by every resident in the district. I therefore submit to the Committee that an assessment on the amount of lords' dues would, when there is the greatest need, be of the least amount; and when there is the least need, it would be of the largest amount.

324. Having stated the total dues that are paid in those districts, have you got the figures summed up together, showing the total expenditure in those same districts?—Yes. In the year 1856, the mining expenditure of the lead company was 93,753*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; the mill expenditure was 14,738*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

325. Is that in addition to the 93,753*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*?—Yes. The ore carriage, 2,099*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*; the lead carriage, 3,168*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*; the contribution to the workmen's fund, 100*l.* (that was to make up the estimated deficiency of the actuary on the last septennial revision of the fund); making a total of 113,861*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, to which is to be added 16,484*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* as the composition for lords' duty ore, and 513*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* as composition for lords' duty lead.

326. Is that your total expenditure?—Yes.

327. *Chairman.*] What was the whole amount of ore sold last year?—That depends very much upon whether the sales are made or are not made. If the lead company had sold the whole of their lead, they would have made a very handsome profit last year, but they were not able to sell the whole of their lead. Perhaps in connection with that I ought to mention this, that on my first coming to the superintendence of the lead company's concern, the directors said this to me "we have been going on for several years losing money; you are entering on a losing concern; we have in former years of prosperity capitalised a certain sum to meet such a contingency; we have a reserved fund for the express purpose of meeting times of difficulty, and times wherein the produce of mines will not yield anything to the shareholders; we give you this intimation in order that you may so arrange matters as to bring in as large a produce as circumstances will permit." I went on for three or four years, and at the end of that time the lead company intimated to me, that the fund which they had reserved for those purposes was nearly exhausted, and that they must now begin to whip up, so as to bring the concern into a beneficial position. I submitted the whole of the arrangements to the lead company's court, and I said that it was impossible for me with my knowledge of the concern, to hold out any hope within five

years of realizing any profit from the concern; but that I hoped that the explorations that were going on, would by that time have realized such results that the concern would be in a beneficial position. They agreed to give me five years' time to bring it into a beneficial position. I name that, because although you will observe that in the last year we made good profits, yet in former years there have been no profits, and at that time it was seriously contemplated on the part of the lead company to wind up the concern.

328. We may also infer, may we not, that the management in the olden time was very bad?—No, by no means; I have no hesitation in saying that the management in the time of my predecessor was superior to my own.

329. Then you have been more fortunate than he was?—In the latter years of his management.

330. How about the extent of this property at Alston Moor; is the land there in the hands of the Greenwich Hospital?—They are the owners of the fee.

331. Not only of the mineral fee, but of the surface also?—They are the owners of the fee of the whole; but the former owners of the fee granted long leases for 999 years of a considerable portion of the lands of Alston Moor, so that I should say that two-thirds of the lands of Alston Moor are in the hands of lessees for a term of 1,000 years, and the remaining third may be said to be in the possession of the Hospital.

332. The fact is, that the surface fee is in the hands, is it not, of other parties for a long period?—Yes.

333. Up to what period did the royalties pay poor-rate?—In Alston Moor they were never assessed. I should mention that there is another small freehold manor within Alston Moor, held by Messrs. Fydell & Tufnell, and the lord's dues thereon have within the last 10 years been charged at the rate of 40*l.* a year; previous to that time none of those within the parish were assessed.

334. With that small exception, the lead mines have never been assessed to the poor's-rate?—Never since the decision in the year 1761, prior to that they were never charged.

335. Although assessable, they were not assessed?—No; they were not assessed.

336. In point of fact there never has been any charge to the poor-rates in respect of these mines?—No, there has not.

337. You say, taking it as a whole, there has been neither a profit nor a loss to the adventurers; how many new mines have you got there now?—I have the precise figures stated here.

338. Can you separate the cases of those new mines from the cases of the old mines?—They are a very small proportion of the cost. In a new mine we drive up a level, and there cannot be more than eight men placed in that level; generally speaking there are only four; so that in each of those mines there is not a very large current annual expenditure; the heavy expenditure comes after the object has been realised; but I have known cases wherein the lead company have spent, say 10,000*l.* or 15,000*l.* in driving up those to the objects, covering more years than the thousands I have named, and in the end the object has entirely disappointed them.

339. How many yards do you reckon you work in the course of the year, generally?—It varies according to the nature of the ground; if a partnership of men can get from one to two fathoms per week, we are generally satisfied, but it varies, according to the nature of the ground; when they are working in soft strata, then they can get three fathoms, but in hard strata they cannot sometimes get one fathom.

340. You have spoken of the rates at Alston Moor. If I understand you correctly, according to the present arrangement, save and except what they get from your clubs, the whole poor are maintained entirely by the owners of the fee?—Yes, by the landowners.

341. And those owners and occupiers are not interested in these mines in any way?—Yes; they are most materially interested in them.

342. How?—It is the mines that have given value to the lands and houses; in the absence of the mines the lands would have been nothing better than sheep-walks; there would have been only a few shepherds upon them; there would have been no houses.

343. Is it good land there, or not?—Immediately in the neighbourhood of the river it is very good land, but away from the river it is poor land.

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344. What description of land is it, arable or pasture?—It is grazing land.

345. How would those grazing lands depend on a mining population, because the amount paid for carriage, you say, is small?—The lands are chiefly occupied by the working miners; they occupy little farms, worth 10*l.* or 20*l.* a year, throughout the district. The chief of the lands are in the occupation of the miners.

346. Is it the fact that the occupiers of the land never complain at all of the burden of the poor-rates?—No, I cannot say they do. There is no doubt that there are individuals among them who would be very glad to be relieved from the burden, but I should say that the bulk of the owners and occupiers of land in those mining districts are so well satisfied that it is from the mines that the land chiefly takes its value, that they are quite content to let things remain as they are.

347. You do not hear of any complaints upon the subject from vestries, do you?—No.

348. What is the fair average number of poor, taking the agricultural and mining population together?—One can scarcely make a distinction, for the population is so mixed up, the farming with the mining population, that they are almost all as one; it is scarcely possible to go into a family occupying half an acre in Alston Moor or Teesdale, without finding that one or more members of that family are workmen employed in mines.

349. Are the miners long-lived or otherwise?—They are short-lived, on the whole; though on the other hand, the vitality, I believe, is fully equal to the rest of the kingdom; up to the age of 45, the average mortality is less than the average of the rest of the kingdom; after 45 they decline more rapidly; but the mines have now become so well ventilated, and the owners of mines so highly appreciate the economical working of mines with improved ventilation, that I believe at the present time there will be a higher average of miners' lives than there was formerly.

350. What are the average wages of miners at present?—The lead company's miners' basis was 15*s.* a week; but the miners earned 16*s.* last year. Many other parties round us are earning from 15*s.* to 20*s.* a week.

351. Supposing they are ill from an accident, are they maintained as long as they are incapacitated from working?—Yes.

352. Suppose a man falls into a consumption or a long illness, is he maintained until his death?—Yes.

353. When once his name is on your books it is not taken off?—Not until the doctor certifies that his name ought to be taken off. There is a local committee in each district for the management of the fund; that local committee consisting of the lead company's mine agent as one, *ex officio*, and of two other parties, being selected by the workmen themselves; it is the duty of that committee, in conjunction with the doctor, to visit all the sick, and to give their certificates as to the propriety or impropriety of the continuance of the allowance; and so long as those parties certify that the allowance ought to be continued, it is continued.

354. Are there no large landed proprietors in that district; is the land all in the hands of small tenants?—In Teesdale there are two or three; in Alston Moor I cannot name a large proprietor who is not, directly or indirectly, connected with the mines; in fact, many of those parties who are in possession of estates in Alston Moor are fortunate miners; miners who in past years have speculated and have been fortunate, and who have bought up little properties around them.

355. Then all parties who are the holders of land are so connected with mines in one way or another, that this is almost an exceptional case to other districts, where parties have nothing to do with mines?—That is the case in Alston Moor. The whole of the residents in Alston Moor are, either directly or indirectly, taking them as a mass, connected with the mines; and the same observation applies to Teesdale.

356. In fact, it would not do for a man to talk about rating that neighbourhood?—Yes, we have perfect freedom of opinion; we do not tie the tongue of any party.

357. In round numbers, what is the amount?—In reply to that question I might say, that it does not fall within my province to sell the produce of the mines; all the expenditure falls within my official province, but I have nothing

to

to do with the sales of the produce of the mines; that is a matter more particularly arranged elsewhere.

358. Perhaps you will not object to state what the amount of your profits was last year?—I should say that the lead company's profits last year were from 30,000 *l.* to 40,000 *l.*; well up to 40,000 *l.*

359. What was the amount of the stock in hand?—That is including the stock in hand; of course, in the management of a concern like the lead company, we take the stock at the commencement of the year, and at the end of it. Perhaps I may be allowed to say that there are between 9,000 and 10,000 shares in the concern; and the ordinary dividend is 1 *l.* a share, and whenever the profits for any given year are such as will justify it, there is a bonus distributed amongst the shareholders.

360. It is a very ancient company, is it not?—Yes, from the time of William and Mary; the 4th of William and Mary.

361. In the olden time were not some very enormous profits made?—By other parties, but never by the lead company.

362. With regard to your clubs and schools, and so on, you are not bound to provide that assistance?—No, it is entirely a voluntary arrangement.

363. You were asked just now what your opinion was as to whether they should be rated or not; you say that if the produce of the mines are rated at all, you think the rate ought to be on the lord?—If it is made on either party.

364. Do I understand you rightly that there is a provision in your lease, that if you are rated that you are to bear the burden?—If the mine is to be rated, then there is a provision in the lease that the adventurers shall bear the burden.

365. If the law should make this description of property rateable, why should you be exempt, when there is that clause in your lease?—At the time of the commencement of the lease there was no burden resting on the mine; and such was the confidence of the lessees that no burden would be imposed, that it was more easy to agree to the terms dictated by the lord.

366. But it would appear, from what the lease contains, that you must have anticipated the possibility of being rated?—I suppose the lords might possibly have anticipated it; and the lords dictated the terms of the leases.

367. Now, as to Teesdale. You have a variety of landowners there; the Duke of Cleveland, Mr. Hutchinson, and Mr. Bowes. Are there any others?—Yes, there are other parties who hold lands there.

368. Are they more or less concerned in the mines?—The bulk of them are connected with the mines, but not so closely as they are in Alston Moor.

369. But they are generally connected with the mines. The landowner may be unconnected with mines, but the bulk of his tenantry are, either in the shape of working under ground or in the carriage of ore; so that it is pretty nearly the same there as it is in Alston Moor?—Yes.

370. Almost all parties who have land are connected either directly or indirectly with the mines?—Yes.

371. And they are dependent in some measure upon them?—Yes. If the mines were not existing there would have to be an emigration *en masse* from the country, and we should very soon have depopulation.

372. Do you employ all the people there now who come to you; is there a scarcity of miners, or is there a redundancy?—There is a scarcity rather than otherwise; we have no difficulty in getting miners, but at the same time there is no want of employment in the country about us.

373. Are the farmers in your neighbourhood obliged to pay a higher rate of wages than is usually paid in the country, or not?—Yes.

374. Is that in consequence of your employment of the miners?—Yes; but still they are able to go on very comfortably; I hear no complaints.

375. The farmers do not complain of your taking away their men?—No; it is not an agricultural neighbourhood; there are comparatively few men employed upon the surface of the land; being a grazing country, the requirements of the people for working the land are comparatively small. Our miners are only obliged to work 40 hours in the week, and consequently, they have a great deal of time at their own disposal; and during that time many of them are in the

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the employ of persons around, so that the owners and occupiers of land have no difficulty in finding labourers.

376. I suppose that, save and except this company, no other company employs miners in your neighbourhood?—Yes, there are independent companies; in Alston Moor more particularly, half the expenditure is by other parties. In Teesdale it certainly may be said that we hold the bulk of the employment in our own hands.

377. Do you call them grants, or sets, or what?—Leases for 21 years.

378. Have you leases of all the valuable grounds there at present?—No; I should say that one-half of Teesdale is still open for speculation.

379. You hear of no complaints in Teesdale?—No, I do not; although I have no doubt that there are parties who would be very glad to see the mines rated.

380. Are there any parties there at all who are disconnected with the mines, but who have to pay to the poor-rate?—Either by themselves or their tenants they are all connected with the mines.

381. If I understand you rightly, in Alston and Teesdale almost all the present ratepayers are so connected with mines that it matters very little to them whether they pay poor-rates or not, inasmuch as if the mines paid them they would fall directly on them; is that so?—It is possible they might conceive that if there was a liability to poor-rates, our general arrangements might be put on a less liberal footing than they are at present.

382. Who pays the highway rate?—That is entirely on the landlord. I may state that, with regard to highways, from 20 to 30 years ago the highways were found excessively inconvenient, and very uneconomical. The lead company have very largely contributed to the reconstruction and improvement of the roads; they may be said, in fact, to have made several of the roads that are now chiefly in use in the district, with an understanding with the township parties that, upon the lead company making the road, the future maintenance of it should be borne by the surveyors of highways.

383. Do you know what money you laid out in that way?—No, I cannot speak positively to it.

384. Is it a large sum of money?—The lead company have certainly expended largely.

385. As regards carriage, do you receive the tenders for that, or do you fix your own price?—We fix our own price, and find parties willing to deal with us. I would observe that the system which I should adopt, in case of a rate being made, would be this: I should take the opinions of some of the best practical agents as to what the rate ought to be, and when I had got their separate opinions, I should make my own calculation. The agents may be said to be the middle-men between the employers and the employed, having no interest but to do right to both parties.

386. Do you fancy that if there were any attempt now to put on a highway-rate and a poor-rate, it would materially interfere with the speculations which are now going on?—I should say it would, as regards small parties, unquestionably; and with regard to a party like the lead company in Alston Moor, where our expenditure and our income are so nearly equal, the imposition of poor-rates in such a case would have a very prejudicial effect on the spirit and enterprise of the directors.

387. Are you not, in Alston Moor, opening up ground with a view to making a profit by-and-by?—A portion of our opening expenditure is at Alston Moor.

388. Are you not opening up ground with a view by-and-by to work it at a profit?—Of course we should not have expended that money if we had not a hope of making a profit at some future time; I may say that there the body of the ore is already gone; there have been in past ages most extensive and spirited workings there, and the cream of the ore (to use a homely expression) is gone from the district, and we are now only left to pick the leavings of others. We may give our forerunners credit for having taken the best chances first, and they have only left to us the second-rate chances. I should say with regard to Alston Moor, that the cream is gone, and it is by no means in a hopeful position, but quite the contrary. In a conversation which I had the other day with Mr. Grey, the receiver at Greenwich Hospital, I told him that we naturally felt unwillingness to leave our arrangements; but were it now a question whether we should

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enter or not, I should unquestionably advise the lead company not to enter, such was my impression regarding the prospects of the district.

389. Do you conceive the royalties to be excessive?—Very much so; I conceive that the lords in the north get the lion's share.

390. Do you know the practice further west, with regard to lead mines in England?—Only from hearsay; my personal knowledge is confined to the districts I have named.

391. But have you reason to believe that they are much larger in your district than they are elsewhere?—Much larger than they are in the south. I have been in communication with agents and parties connected with mines in the south, and I have understood that in the south a tenth duty was considered a very heavy duty, and that more generally the duty was a fifteenth or a twentieth, and even as low as a twenty-fifth.

392. Mr. *Williams.*] Just now you said that at Alston Moor the cream had been taken away; what is to become of the poor population; who is to maintain them after you are gone?—I should say, they are such a spirited race of people that they will not remain in the district to be maintained by poor-rates.

393. But who are to maintain those who remain?—No doubt the landowners will maintain those who do remain; but employment is so abundant, and the people are so well paid in the north, that, assuming it should be the fact that the lead mines of Alston Moor should become closed, I should say, that at the end of the twelve months there would be no miners resident in the district; they would have emigrated, and found employment elsewhere.

394. But still, of those who did remain, the landed proprietors would be obliged to maintain their poor; what would become of the widows and children of the maimed, and those who are not able to work?—I should say, that the bulk of the able-bodied would take the disabled away with them. There are such family attachments, and there is such good family feeling amongst the miners of the north, that very few able-bodied parties would leave their homes, and leave the infirm of their families behind them.

395. You have stated that the poor-rates of Teesdale amount to 900 *l.* a year?—Yes.

396. And that was levied upon the landed interest to the extent of 7,900 *l.* a year, that being the value of the land?—Yes.

397. What proportion of the population of that district is employed in agriculture, and what proportion is employed in the mines. I think you said just now that the number employed in agriculture was small, and that the mining population was large; can you state what is the proportion of each?—It would be very difficult for me to give a direct reply to that question; for the fact is, that as to those who are employed in agriculture, some one or more of the members of their family are generally employed in the mines.

398. In order to ascertain that one proportion is large and the other is small, must you not have come to some conclusion as to the relative proportion of each?—I come to this general conclusion; I know from my knowledge of the residents of those parishes, that there are very few families indeed where I could not pick out one or more members of the family who are employed in or in connexion with the mines.

399. What proportion would they bear to the whole number?—For the reason I have already given it would be very difficult to give a direct reply to your question.

400. In coming to the conclusion that the one is small and the other large, have you not some idea as to the proportion?—I really cannot truthfully say what the proportion is; I should be merely guessing it if I were to give a direct reply to your question.

401. Is it one-half of the whole population of Teesdale?—By no means.

402. Is it one-quarter?—If I were to say nine-tenths I should be beyond the mark.

403. Nine-tenths mining and one-tenth agricultural?—Yes.

404. Then am I to understand that as to the maimed, the aged, the children, and people who require relief, that notwithstanding of the whole population of Teesdale, nine-tenths are employed for the benefit of mining proprietors, the mining proprietors do not subscribe anything now towards their maintenance, but they are maintained by the landed interest; that the landed interest maintains the nine-tenths of the poor who require relief, and who are connected with the

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the mining interest?—Of course whatever relief is given to the poor comes, as it were, directly from the land; but it is the mines that have given the capabilty to the land of that contribution to the poor.

405. That is not exactly an answer to the question which I put. My question was, whether or not, whatever the rates may be, nine-tenths of the charge is not occasioned by the mining population?—Of course, I should say that nine-tenths of the charges arise from parties who are directly or indirectly connected with the mines.

406. Is it just, in your opinion, that the agriculturists should pay ten-tenths of the rate to the poor, when nine-tenths of it arise from the poverty of the mining population?—Yes, I conceive that there is no injustice in the landed interest bearing that burden, inasmuch as that landed interest has, in fact, been created by the mining interest: the lands would be no better than sheep-walks in the absence of the mines. We should have a few herds of cattle and a few flocks of sheep travelling over the mountains; and land which is now let at 5*l.* or 6*l.*, would not in that case be let for more than 10*s.* an acre.

407. Have you not a town in your neighbourhood?—Yes, but that has been created by the mines also.

408. Have you no farms?—Very few of any sort, except those which are chiefly in the occupation of miners, or parties directly or indirectly connected with mines.

409. Suppose the Teesdale district should become poor, as you stated just now, as the Alston Moor district will become poor, what will become of the poor population; who would maintain the poor there?—If they remained in the district, they would have to be maintained by the landowners; but as I remarked before, our north-country miners are such a spirited race of people, that they would never remain where there was no employment for them; and if they had to leave their homes, they would take their sick, generally speaking, along with them.

410. What reason have you for the opinion which you have expressed, that the mines should not bear an equitable proportion of the burden of the poor?—I conceive that, on account of the great risk and the large capital embarked in mining, the Legislature in the reign of Elizabeth chose to exempt mines from rateability.

411. I am speaking of the dues, the royalty; is there any risk of the royalty?—There is no express risk with regard to the royalty. With regard to the dues, a burdened lord is not in a position to grant equally liberal terms to his adventurers as an unburdened lord is.

412. Has that any reference to the agricultural classes, that have nothing to do with mines?—I should say that in the reign of Elizabeth the mines of Alston Moor and Teesdale were, comparatively speaking, unopened, the lands were of no value comparatively. They would have remained so up to the present day if the mines had never been opened: so that it is the mines that have created the capital of the landowner; it is the mines that have given a value to the land which would not otherwise have attached to it; and the lands at present produce more to the owners of them, with all the parochial burdens upon them, than they would have produced if the mines had never brought a burden at all; the lands to those landowners are of infinitely higher value as lands with their burdens than they would have been if the mines had never existed. Now, to burden the mines would be to give a bonus to the landowner.

413. That has no reference to the justice or injustice to the agriculturist, who has no interest in the mines?—I conceive that the agriculturist has a very large interest in the mines, and that in fact the agriculturist in these mining dales would be non-existent if it were not for the existence of the mines.

414. You said just now that nine-tenths of the poor population were a mining population; would it therefore, in your opinion, be just to compel the agriculturists to maintain the poor, nine-tenths of whom are not in any way connected with agriculture?—The mine has given the agriculturist the ability to contribute, and having given him that ability, he must be compelled to take the disability along with it. The landed interest I should, say would be a cypher were it not for the existence of the mines; in fact, the present owners of land in Alston Moor would be the owners only of a few sheep-walks were it not for the existence of the mines, and I conceive that the landowners of Alston Moor

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ought to be well content to take all the burthens that the mines bring upon them in connexion with the advantages.

415. Do you think that the agriculturists who have no connexion with the mines feel that?—There are no agriculturists who have no connexion with the mines in those districts; I conceive that the connexion is intimate, and that it is impossible to sever it.

416. Do the owners at Alston Moor, work their own land?—No.

417. Do they take sets?—Yes, they take sets under Greenwich Hospital.

418. I thnk you stated that the rateable property in Alston Moor is about 10,000 *l.*?—Yes.

419. What was the amount of the royalty?—About 11,000 *l.*

420. Am I to understand that that 11,000 *l.* does not pay any rates, and that nine-tenths of the rates are borne wholly by the land?—Yes, with the exception of voluntary contributions that are made by the clubs.

421. And the mining property does not pay any portion of it?—With the exception of 40 *l.* a year.

422. Do you think it is reasonable or just that the agricultural owners should pay the whole of the poor's rate, both with respect to the mining and with respect to the agricultural property?—Yes, I do think it is just, under the circumstances I have stated.

423. Under every circumstance connected with mines?—As far as my knowledge goes, I conceive it to be perfectly reasonable that the landed interests should bear the burthen; and I think they should be well content to take that burthen in connexion with the advantages they have derived from the mines.

424. But supposing the lords of the agricultural property should not be the same as the lords of the mines, do you think it equitable or just that the lords of the agricultural property should bear the burden for the lords of the mining property?—Yes, I do, for the reasons I have stated before; that it is the mines that have given their value to the agricultural property.

425. Are you speaking with reference to Derbyshire?—No. I am speaking of the north.

426. Cumberland and Yorkshire?—Yes.

427. Do you conceive that the value of estates in Cumberland is increased or decreased by reason of the mines?—It is largely increased.

428. Are not the poor-rates very materially increased when a depreciated price is given for land, and when there is very little demand for land?—Of course they will depend upon the amount of employment given to the population.

429. Are not wages less when the price of lead is low than they are when it is high?—So far as the lead companies works are concerned, I should say that our men fare, generally speaking, alike under all circumstances.

430. How would that be with regard to other mining concerns?—With regard to other companies, there is no doubt that there would not be such beneficial employment to the workmen when the lead trade is low as when it is in a prosperous condition.

431. And would you not by that means throw an additional poor population out of employ, requiring relief from the poor-rate?—No; we scarcely know an instance of an able-bodied man in the north going for relief to the poor-rate; they are too spirited and too noble a set of men; that is only in the south.

432. Have the rates, according to the parish books, increased or decreased when the price of lead has been high?—The price of lead I conceive has not a very material influence upon our population, for the fact is this: there is abundance of employment all round us, and supposing the lead mines were shut up, there would be no difficulty on the part of our own population in going a little distance and obtaining beneficial employment.

433. And their families would not increase the rates?—No, I conceive not; I should not know where to look for a miner who would be content to be employed at a distance from his family and leave that family a burden upon the rates; they are too-well principled a set of men for that; I should say that the lead-mining population of the north on all occasions feel it a deep degradation to have recourse to poor-rates.

434. You made a comparison, just now, about a burdened and an unburdened lord; what relative effect would that have upon the agriculturists; would it at all

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all relieve the burden upon them?—To the extent of the contribution, either by the lord or by the adventurer, it would be a bonus to the agriculturist.

435. Supposing they were bound to contribute towards the maintenance of their own poor, would not that be a benefit to the agriculturist?—Hitherto the agriculturist has borne the burden under the law; he has acquired his property with a knowledge of the existence of that burden; and a party buying an estate in any district, with a knowledge of the parochial burdens existing in that district, would proportion his purchase-money accordingly.

436. If the mines were to contribute towards the poor-rate in the same proportion as the landed interest, would not that be a relief to the agricultural interest?—Undoubtedly it would.

437. Then is it justice, in your opinion, that the agricultural interest should not have that relief, and that it should be obliged to maintain nine-tenths of the population of the parish who are engaged in mining operations?—For the reasons I have already assigned, I conceive that there would be no justice in so relieving the agriculturist; I conceive that, in justice, the agriculturist ought to bear the burdens he has hitherto borne.

438. In other words, then, you would say that it is not just, in your opinion, that the mining interest should maintain their own poor, but you think that the agricultural interest should be obliged to maintain the ten-tenths, nine-tenths of whom are engaged in mining?—Yes, I conceive that in justice the burden ought to rest on the agriculturist; for the agriculturist would, in fact, have been non-existent, comparatively speaking, were it not for the mines. I think that the agriculturists who have received benefit from the mines ought to be well-content to take the burden along with the benefit.

439. Is there any compact in existence that adventurers in mines should not pay their proportion, or contribute to the maintenance of their own poor?—There is the existing law, and there is the reason for that existing law; the reason that was assigned by the judges in the case to which I have referred in 1761. I conceive that that reason still subsists, and that for the encouragement of mining adventurers, and for the promotion of employment contributing to the national wealth, it is desirable that that exemption should still continue; mining is very different from cultivating the surface of the land. If a miner is discouraged, and his mine is shut up, there may be great loss of future benefit from that mine, whilst an agriculturist may let his land lie dormant and be improving it in a certain sense, so as to render it capable at a future time of better cultivation. It is of great importance that no discouragement should be thrown in the way of mining, but that every possible encouragement should be given to the continuance of the working of already existing mines, and to fresh explorations.

440. Do you not think that the same encouragement would be given to mines, if you could induce the lords, instead of taking a sixth or a seventh for dues (the lion's share as you have observed), to abate their dues; would not that give that encouragement which you think is so essential to the working of mines, and would it not be more equitable than throwing the additional burden upon your neighbours who have no interest, or only an indirect interest in the working of those mines?—I should still say that, as between the lord and the agriculturist, the justice of the case, taking past circumstances into account, would require the burden to be left where it is, upon the landed interest.

441. If the adventurers want encouragement, why should you call upon the landed interest to assist them in preference to the man, who has such a large income without any risk?—We do not call upon the landed interest to assist us. We work the mines, and we explore, and we pay the people we employ; we do not call upon the landed interest to contribute towards the maintenance of those people.

442. The agriculturists now maintain the whole of the poor, do they not?—Yes, and they would have had to maintain those poor in the absence of the mines.

443. Would the population have been there but for the mines?—Not so large a population, but the mines have created that value to the lands of the agriculturist, which has given the agriculturist the ability to pay.

444. Mr. *Hussey Vivian.*] When you stated the profits of the lead company, you did not state the capital; will you give the Committee some idea what the capital of the lead company is?—I can hardly give you an idea of the capital. It is said

said that on the first establishment of the company there were nearly 10,000 shares, and that each of those shareholders contributed 5 *l.* towards the capital.

445. That would be 50,000 *l.*?—Yes.

446. There has been year by year a constant dead outlay, has there not?—There has been an outlay and an income also; sometimes the outlay exceeding the income, and sometimes the income exceeding the outlay.

447. Assuming that year by year you make outlays to the extent you have already described, say from 10,000 *l.* to 15,000 *l.* or even 20,000 *l.* a year, in order to win new ground; what portion of that do you consider ought to be added to capital?—In our own accounts we do not add it to capital; we let each year bear its own burden.

448. Do you erect any machinery?—Not so largely as they do in the south of England; we are not under the necessity for it.

449. When you do erect machinery, do you write it off at once?—No, not entirely; generally speaking, we would capitalise the machinery for the year, and then write it off in the course of the next half dozen years.

450. The capital that is embarked may be considered a very large one, may it not?—No doubt it is. The only means I have of getting at the capital is this: say there are between 9,000 and 10,000 shares, and that those shares are selling at 30 *l.* per share on an average, you then have 300,000 *l.* of capital.

451. Your average return of profit was about 10,000*l.* in each year, was it not?—My impression is, that since I have had the management of the concern, the returns have not been equal to 10,000*l.* a year.

452. Although last year they amounted to as large a sum as 35,000 *l.*?—Yes; my impression is, that three per cent. is as much as many of the shareholders are realising, while others, who bought in at a lower rate, would be receiving from seven to ten per cent. These things fluctuate very materially.

453. Your mills are your smelting works, are they not?—Yes.

454. Are they rated?—Yes, they are.

455. Can you state to what amount they are rated?—We have one mill at Weardale which is rated at 80*l.* a year; the mill at Teesdale is rated, if I mistake not, at 50 *l.* a year, but I am not quite certain; a few years ago it was not rated at all; our neighbours generally considered it as an incident to the mines, and did not rate us for it. A few years ago it was rated at 10*l.* a year, in order that they might get a hook upon us, and, if I mistake not, it is now rated at 30 *l.* or 40 *l.* a year; but I cannot speak positively. Such, however, is the consideration on the part of our neighbours of the advantages they derive from the lead company's operations, that even with regard to the lead mill they do not put us up to what might be deemed the rack-rating of it.

456. Can you state whether or not the rates in those parishes in which your mines are situate are higher than the average rates throughout the district in parishes where no mines are situate?—I should think they are a little higher, but not very materially so.

457. You have no certain data to go upon?—I have no certain data. I asked the clerk to the union to furnish me with data, but he did not do so; my impression, however, would be that the rates on account of the population are rather heavier in the mining districts than they are in the neighbourhood of the other districts.

458. You say they are about 3*s.* in the pound in the parish of Teesdale?—Yes.

459. I think you have stated that 30*s.* a year is deducted from the men's wages, and that for that they receive medical relief, and 7*s.* a week in case of illness?—The company provide medical relief totally independent of the fund; the company out of their own funds provide medical relief, and the payments to members of the fund are only applicable to the sick, allowances for funerals, and the 3*l.* that is given to the family of every member on his death.

460. Does the provision cease with the payment of that 3*l.*, or are the widows and orphans entitled to any pension?—No: it ceases on the death.

461. Mr. *Colvile.*] Not taking your own locality, but taking the United Kingdom, is it your opinion that the mines at present so far benefit the agricultural interest by the increased consumption of their produce as to overbalance any loss

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that the agriculturists may sustain by paying rates for the relief of decrepid and indigent miners?—Fully so, as far as I have any knowledge.

462. Do you think that if by any unfortunate accident a stop should be put to mining operations in this country, the agricultural interests would be worse off than they are at present?—I do think they would.

463. *Chairman.*] Have you ever been in any mining district where there are very large farms, which farms are wholly disconnected with mining, either directly or indirectly?—No, I have not.

464. The mining districts have been confined to sterile parts of the country, where, if there were no mines, you would have a very small rental, but the land now is improved entirely in consequence of the working of the mines; is that the case so far as your knowledge extends?—In general terms, it is so; the lower part of those mining dales are capable of cultivation; in Weardale that is more particularly the case.

465. I asked you just now whether you had not any land which might, in a measure, be independent of the mining interests, and you said you thought the whole of it was in the hands of parties connected with mines?—Yes, directly or indirectly, either in the shape of employment, or in the shape of a market for their produce.

466. Generally speaking, you know but little of any property near mines which is not directly or indirectly connected with those mines?—That is the fact.

467. Therefore you can only offer an opinion of your own upon the subject?—Yes, just so; but I have this general impression, that wherever there is a large population located, that population by its consumption of the produce of agricultural lands in the neighbourhood does very largely contribute to the value of those lands.

468. Is that opinion founded on your local personal knowledge of different parts of the mining districts of England?—As a man of business mixing with the world, I have come to the conclusion, that it is population that gives value to landed property, and that in the absence of population there is nobody to eat the produce of the land.

469. But the value of your opinion must depend, in a great degree, must it not, upon your actual knowledge of localities?—But as a man moving about in the world (for I have not been confined to those mining dales all my life) and possessing common sense, I have come to the general conclusion that it is population that gives value to land.

470. You have given evidence very ably and very clearly before us; but, at the same time, your evidence should not go forth as of more value than it really is; unless you are acquainted with districts in which there are large farms, not connected with mines in any way, do you think you are in a condition to form a very decided opinion upon the subject?—My opinion rests on general principles.

471. You say that nine-tenths of the parties who pay rates in Teesdale are connected either directly or indirectly with mining?—Yes.

472. That is, that of those who pay the poor-rates, nine-tenths are either directly or indirectly connected with mines?—Yes, I should say so.

473. Therefore, that being so, it would not be a hardship to them to pay poor-rates?—Yes, I should conceive it would.

474. If the poor-rates are paid by nine-tenths of the population, who are intimately connected with mines, it would not matter to them whether they paid poor-rates on the royalties or on the land; is not that so?—Yes, it would make a material difference, because we pay the miners' wages; the miners receive wages as a remuneration for their labour; and if we were to continue to deal with the same amount of liberality that we have done in times past with those parties, with the burden of the poor-rate saddled upon us as adventurers in future, it would be helping those men to contribute to the poor-rate, because they would not have so much poor-rate to pay for the occupation of the land, on account of the relief obtained by the assessment *pro tanto* of the mines.

475. In answer to a question put by an honourable Member of the Committee (Mr. Williams), as to the proportion which the agriculturists bore to the miners, you said you could hardly make any distinction at all between them, because nine-tenths

nine-tenths of the population were either directly or indirectly connected with the mines, and were in fact miners; as these rates are paid wholly by the agriculturists, and as nine-tenths of those agriculturists, according to your account, are connected with mines, it matters not, does it, whether they pay poor-rates or royalties?—When a man occupies an agricultural farm, he pays as an occupier. If you place a burden on the adventurer, the adventurer pays, and not the workmen. The occupiers of those lands are working men, not mining adventurers; there is a most important distinction there, which ought to be borne in mind; the occupiers of the land are not themselves mining adventurers, they are merely the employed. I cannot, at the present moment, fix my mind on any single farm, occupied by any family, wherein there is not some member of that family connected with the mines.

476. Are there not a large number of adventurers among the 10,000 shareholders?—No, they are all distant parties.

477. Mr. *Williams*.] Would there be any hardship, in your judgment, in the whole of the property being rated to the poor, including the royalties and the rents, as you say they are all connected with the mines?—I will take the lead company; they are not landowners, nor are they occupiers to any large extent.

478. But there is the lord, of course?—There is the lord.

479. The lord would have to bear the burden, would he not, if the royalty were taxed?—That would depend on Parliament.

480. In what way?—You are assuming, as I understand, that all property shall be taxed.

481. I will assume that the royalty is to be taxed; if it were taxed to whom would that be a relief; would it be a relief to the adventurers, or to the agriculturists in the district?—It would be a relief to the agriculturists.

482. And would not that tax be for the maintenance of the poor of the parish?—Yes, unquestionably.

483. Did you not say just now that nine-tenths of the poor are maintained directly or indirectly through the mines?—Yes.

484. If the lord's dues were taxed, that would be a relief to the landed interest, would it not?—Yes.

485. That would come in aid of, and go towards the maintenance of the poor, nine-tenths of whom are connected with the mining interests?—Yes.

486. Where then is the justice of relieving those parties from maintaining their own poor, and casting the burden upon others?—I can only give you the same reply to that question that I have given before; that the mines have been of so much benefit to the lands as to give to the lands the ability to maintain the poor; and those lands in the possession of the landowners are of more value to the landowners with their burdens than they would have been if the mines had never been in existence; and I still adhere most tenaciously to that.

487. In the Westmoreland district, where the mines have fallen off, have the rents and values of the lands decreased in proportion to the falling off of those mines?—The Westmoreland district has never been a large district, and the proportion of miners there is comparatively small. I should say with regard to the Westmoreland district, that there the mining portion are decidedly the minority, but that in Westmoreland the occupation of houses and of small farms by the miners has given an additional rental to the lands of the landowner.

488. Has there been any reduction in the value of those lands since the mines have ceased to work so extensively as they did before?—They have never been so extensively worked as to make any material difference.

489. If so, in what way could the mines have increased in value to the extent you have stated?—The mining interest in Westmoreland, in the district I refer to, has never been of much importance. The lands there are, *per se*, of more intrinsic value than lands in any of the other districts I refer to; and the mines may be considered there as being of secondary importance to the lands.

490. Mr. *Ridley*.] You have stated that the lead veins in Alston Moor are pretty nearly exhausted; that you have got the cream out of them?—I conceive so.

491. And if it is wished to make those lead veins more profitable in future, will you not have to go down to a lower depth than you now do?—Yes.

492. You will have to alter your method of working them, and to sink shafts?—Yes.

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493. That, I apprehend, would be attended with considerably greater expense?—Yes.

494. You stated that, in your opinion, if the mines were closed, the mining population would probably emigrate, and go and seek work elsewhere?—Yes.

495. But probably some of the population, such as the old or disabled people and the sick, might still remain in the district, might they not?—Yes, such of them as have no family connexions to take them away.

496. Would not those people, having once been contributors to the workman's fund, have a right to relief from that workman's fund, though the mines themselves were closed and the workmen gone away? Would the fund in that case still be liable to give them relief, they having been contributors to it?—The fund would still subsist for the benefit of the company's workmen for the time being, and their families.

497. Therefore, *pro tanto*, having been contributors to that workman's fund, all those who had been contributors before would continue to receive relief, and to that extent the poor-rates in the places where they continued to reside would be relieved?—Certainly; for as a rule we hold this, that when a man leaves the company's works, in consequence of want of employment by the company, we always allow him to continue on the fund, and to have the full benefit of it.

Christopher Lonsdale Bradley, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. Lonsdale Bradley, Esq.

498. Mr. *Ridley*.] WHERE do you live?—At Richmond, in Yorkshire.

499. Are you yourself engaged in mining operations?—I am.

500. Are you also manager for any lead mines?—I am.

501. How long have you been engaged in that way?—Upwards of 20 years.

502. In what district do your mines lie?—In Swaledale.

503. Are they lead mines?—Yes.

504. Under whom do you lease?—I lease under Sir George Denys, Sir Francis Shuckborough, and the Rev. Dr. Thorpe, in right of the Countess of Pontefract, whom he married.

505. What is the nature of your leases?—I also lease under Mr. Smith, and several other lessors.

506. Do you hold under long leases?—Leases for 21 years.

507. In what way are the lords' dues reserved in the leases in your case?—In kind generally, paying one-sixth of lead at the mill door.

508. Has that always been the rate?—That is the general royalty of the district. There is one at a seventh; and the Crown has let a district lately at an eighth.

509. Do you know that that is a higher royalty than is usual in other parts of England?—It is the highest I have ever met with.

510. Is there anything particular as regards the lead ore that you get up from your mines that makes that rate higher, even in comparison with other works in the district?—Certainly; inasmuch as it contains only about two ounces of silver in the ton of lead, it is not worth de-silvering; whereas the ores in the north country contain about 10 ounces of silver; so that every ton of lead would be worth 2 *l.* 10 *s.* a ton more, taking silver at 5 *s.* an ounce.

511. You get two ounces from a ton of lead?—Yes.

512. Do the miners in your district work by contract, or are they paid by wages?—They do both. Some work by contract, and others are paid by wages; but generally speaking, they work by contract.

513. Are they occupiers of small farms?—They generally hold a cottage, and a field or two, to keep a cow.

514. What is the amount of rateable property in Swaledale?—I do not know; but I have estimated it at somewhere from 8,000 *l.* to 10,000 *l.* a year.

515. Have you given great attention to the question as to whether mines, and the produce of mines, should be made rateable to poor-rates?—I have thought over the matter a good deal. There is no doubt it would be very detrimental to interests such as those at Swaledale. I confine myself to that district. I consider it would be very detrimental to them to rate the mines, especially to rate the lessees. In our leases we have a clause by which we undertake that we shall pay all parochial and parliamentary rates now or hereafter to be imposed: the lords got that provision introduced some 20 years ago.

516. Is that clause contained in your lease?—Yes.

517. During

517. During the continuation therefore of those leases, at all events, you would not be liable to relieve yourselves of that burden?—No; certainly not.

518. And, therefore, having entered under that lease at a time when such a burden was not placed upon the produce of mines, I apprehend you are of opinion that it would be an injustice to place such a burden upon them now?—Certainly I do, as we have laid out our capital upon the faith of our not being rated.

519. Have you formed any opinion as to the policy of such a measure with reference to the future?—That would be rather a matter to be regulated afterwards between the lessors and lessees by arrangement.

520. Do you think from your own knowledge and experience of mining districts that it would, generally speaking, be an impolitic thing to make mines subject to such a rate?—In the lead mining districts it certainly would be impolitic, in my opinion.

521. Do you think, from your knowledge and experience of lead mining districts, that the imposition of such a burden would tend to check the legitimate speculation of mining adventurers?—Most undoubtedly it would.

522. Should you be inclined yourself to continue your mining adventures if you were made subject to such a burden?—Certainly not; at all events I should much reduce my operations.

523. Have you been successful as a mining adventurer?—Not hitherto; I will state what I have expended in one concern. From 1836 to 1856 we have raised and expended 107,460 *l.*, from which we have received 94,720 *l.*, leaving a deficiency of 12,740 *l.*, upon which the lord has received a royalty of 18,944 *l.*, calculating the lead at the price at which I sold it.

524. What is the nature of the land in Swaledale?—It is a mountainous country; there is very good land in the valleys adjoining the river, which is occupied by small farmers and cottagers, with a field or two to keep a cow.

525. There are sheep-walks on the high lands, are there not?—Yes.

526. Is that land capable of being used for any other purpose?—No; it is generally heather.

527. Can you give the Committee a return of the amount of lead that you have raised in your district?—It averages from 4,000 to 4,500 tons per annum; that is about the average of last year.

528. Can you state what is the annual expense of that?—No, I cannot do that, for we work it in private companies; therefore I cannot go into the details.

529. Has the agricultural property in Swaledale, to your knowledge, been increased in value by the mining population that is situated upon it?—There is no doubt that, to some extent, that must be so; the mines have been worked for a very long period of years.

530. Is the population in the Swaledale district, or any part of it, occupied in mining industry?—Partly so; principally so, indeed.

531. Have you any very large amount of poor-rates collected?—The rates run from 3 *s.* 6 *d.* to 4 *s.* generally in the pound, in the valley.

532. Have you any benefit or sick clubs?—No, none of any consequence.

533. If any of your miners become sick or disabled from work, is there any fund belonging to the companies working in that district, from which they are entitled to receive some relief?—No, none whatever; they must come upon the parish unless they assist each other, as they frequently do.

534. But you have not any of those large benefit clubs?—No, we have not.

535. Have you heard Mr. Bainbridge's evidence?—Yes, I have; I have had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Bainbridge, and it may perhaps shorten matters if I state that, both of us coming from the same district, our views are very much alike.

536. Your experience in mining districts has laid very much in the same direction as Mr. Bainbridge's?—Very similar; in a valley that runs parallel to it, twelve miles to the south of it.

537. And your views upon this subject generally speaking, coincide with those which have been expressed by Mr. Bainbridge to day?—Yes; they approximate very closely, I should say, to the views which I entertain.

538. Is there any particular matter relating to your own district as to which you

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you would wish to furnish the Committee with information?—No; I am not aware that there is, unless I were to go over the same ground that has already been travelled over by Mr. Bainbridge.

539. What amount of rateable property is there in the parish in which this mine is?—From 8,000 *l.* to 10,000 *l.* a year.

540. Is that land and house property?—Yes.

541. And out of that, I think you say, you pay about 3 *s.* to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound to the poor's rate?—Yes.

542. The mine pays no rate?—No.

543. There is no club there?—No.

544. If a miner becomes pauperised by any accident, or by reason of any circumstance connected with the mines, he becomes chargeable on the landed property?—Yes.

545. Entirely?—Yes.

546. Is the whole of that landed property dependent upon the mining?—Not entirely so; there are many farms upon it, but some members of the family are almost always engaged at the mines.

547. All those farms, then, are connected with the mines in some way?—Yes, some members of the family are almost sure to be engaged in the mines.

548. Do you think that the mines are of so much benefit to all these farms, that the occupiers of them would cheerfully bear the burden of the poor-rates?—I never heard a complaint about it; I never heard the subject discussed until this Bill was brought forward.

549. No poor-rates were ever paid?—Yes, I think, in 1815 or 1820 the poor-rates were paid on the mines in Swaledale.

550. How long did they pay?—For two or three years, I think; I only speak of what I have heard.

551. You never heard of any complaint upon the subject?—No, not in our district.

552. Not by the ratepayers?—No; from 1815 to 1820 I am informed that the lessees were rated upon the royalties.

553. What is the amount of their royalty?—It fluctuates very much, but I should think that the royalties of that district might amount to 10,000 *l.* a year.

554. Then the royalties amount to just as much as the value of the rateable property?—I should think something approaching to it.

555. As far as your experience goes, those who are rated cheerfully pay, not only for the maintenance of their own poor, but for the maintenance of the poor connected with the mines?—In our district.

556. Has the question ever been mooted at all?—It was mooted from 1815 to 1820, but since that point was settled it has never been mooted.

557. Was that point settled by a new lease being granted?—I think it is paid in kind now, and not in ore.

558. Were there new leases?—Yes; it was settled that if the royalties were rendered in kind, and not in ore, they were not rateable; and therefore we rendered them in lead, and not in ore.

559. Mr. *Williams*.] What is the entire population of Swaledale?—I do not know.

560. You have said that it is principally a mining population?—Chiefly so.

561. Would the mining population amount to three-fourths?—I should say nearly that.

562. And one-fourth would be engaged in agriculture?—Yes, I should think that would be about it.

563. Has there been any period when the rates have decreased as the mines have increased, as is said to be the case in other mining districts?—The rates were, from 1815 to 1820, as much as 10 *s.* in the pound; but they have been gradually decreasing ever since.

564. They are now from 3 *s.* 6 *d.* to 4 *s.*?—Yes.

565. Is not the occupation of the poor population affected, more or less, by the rise and fall in the price of lead?—It will affect it to some extent; we let by contract, and the letting of our workings are regulated a good deal by the price of lead.

566. When the mines are in a depressed state, and you cannot give beneficial employment

employment to the poor, does not that increase the amount of the poor-rate?—It would increase it, but that has not happened in my time.

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567. You say it increased to 10 *s.* in the pound at one time?—That was from the year 1815 to 1820.

568. That increased poor-rate was the consequence, I suppose, of the depressed condition of the mines?—Clearly so.

569. The poor-rate having been increased, in consequence of the depressed condition of the mines in those times, to 10 *s.* in the pound, is it not, in your opinion, a manifest injustice that they do not contribute now to the maintenance of their own poor; inasmuch as that 10 *s.* operated as an increased tax upon the agriculturists, who receive no benefit from the mines, would it not be unjust that the lords should not contribute to the maintenance of their own poor?—It would be a large tax on the landowner; but the landowner has for many years been deriving an increased value from his land by the occupation of it for mineral purposes.

570. Do you consider that the increased value is in proportion to the increased poor-rate, when they were paying such a rate to the poor as 10 *s.* in the pound?—The land would no doubt be very much depreciated in value at that time; but since then it has risen again to its full value, or to a greater value.

571. Are there not some parts in that neighbourhood where mines have ceased to work?—No, I think not.

572. Supposing the mines were to cease to work, what would become of the poor population who were not able bodied?—They would have to come to the parish, if they required relief; but I think that their families would take them away elsewhere; there is plenty of employment.

573. But if they did come to the parish, would it not be the agriculturists who would have to maintain them?—It would be those who were occupying the land at the time.

574. Mr. *Vivian.*] Can you state generally what the poor-rate is; how much in the pound?—From 3 *s.* 6 *d.* to 4 *s.*; that is taking a very extensive area.

575. Is the poor-rate higher in the purely mining districts than it is in other parts?—It is a little higher; the poor-rates in agricultural districts are usually about 2 *s.* 6 *d.* or 3 *s.* in the pound.

576. What are they in your particular district?—In the mining district from 3 *s.* 6 *d.* to 4 *s.*

577. That is from about 6 *d.* to 1 *s.* in the pound higher than in other districts?—Yes.

578. Is the land more valuable in the mining than in the agricultural districts?—The best land we have in the mining districts lets for about 5 *l.* an acre.

579. Do you consider that on the average the land in the mining districts has increased in value more than the burden of the poor-rates upon that land is increased?—I should say so.

580. Mr. *Ridley.*] You think that since the year 1820, since which period the poor-rates have gradually diminished, the value of lands in the district of which you have been speaking has increased?—I should. I think it has come back to what it was in the prosperous times that existed previously.

581. Has the mining population increased at the same time?—No, I think it has been very stationary; I do not think it has increased.

582. You say that the miners in your district are also small occupiers of land; are the small occupiers of land employed also in carrying your ore?—Yes, we let people who hold land have the leading of the ore and other carriage.

583. They derive some advantage from that, which they would not derive if the mining operations were not carried on there?—Yes, the carriage employs a great number of carriers.

584. Mr. *Davey.*] You have said that you consider rating the mines would be detrimental to mining speculation generally?—Yes, but especially in the case of such mines as there are in Swaledale. They work there in small companies, and it can be calculated very nearly what would pay and what would not pay.

585. Would the effect, in your opinion, be to cause all speculation to cease?—No, but it would retard it. If I, as a lessee, were to be rated, that would be the result. If the lord were to be rated, it would of course be different.

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586. That would not interfere with your speculation?—No.

587. What would be the effect if it were divided between you?—We are already too highly charged by our dues.

588. Mr. *Foster*.] Has the notice of this motion given rise to any agitation on this subject in the district of which you have been speaking?—None whatever.

589. At the present time is there any agitation at all going on in favour of the proposition which has been made?—No, I have not heard the question mooted.

590. *Chairman*.] What are the prospects of mining in your neighbourhood at present?—There are about three paying mines out of, perhaps, 15.

591. Do you think that more are likely to pay?—It is very uncertain, but I hope so.

592. Do you think that the speculations will continue for some time?—Yes; I may mention that I have given up a large district myself on account of the royalties.

593. If they do not pay and are given up, what would be the consequence to the parties who are there now; would the depression be very severe?—It would; I look upon it as a very serious matter. Unless the lords alter their royalties, with the extensive iron fields that there are within 40 miles of the district, the men will go there and get higher wages, and leave the mining districts; that will be a very serious thing, for mere navvies will not do to work lead mines; the lords had very little or no interest in the surface.

594. So that, in point of fact, unless they lower their dues, or unless something is done to relieve the landed proprietor, his prospects are very sad at the present moment?—No, I do not say that.

595. If you give up speculation in one district, then that district derives no benefit from the mining operations?—It becomes occupied by farmers, and there are no miners living in it.

596. Still that district is in the same parish?—Yes, it is in the same parish, but it has never been affected by the mines at all.

597. He is a ratepayer to the poor of the other part where there is a mining district?—I am only giving up a part where I have laid out money, but have not found it profitable; but there is no mining population upon it.

598. But these farmers have no interest in the mining district, and still they pay towards the maintenance of your paupers?—Yes, I never heard them object to it.

599. Is it fair or just in your opinion, that parties living in a district where there is no mining going on, and where they have no interest directly or indirectly in mines, should pay towards the poor of another district in the same parish, they having no interest at all in that district?—In that district there are only a few farms; I never heard them make any objection.

600. An existing farm must derive some benefit from the population employed in the mines, though at a distance, in the same parish, must it not?—Generally speaking it would be so, but in this particular instance it was quite on a moor, and there were only two or three moorside farms, which comprised a large area.

601. But they must have a sale for their produce?—They keep large sheep stocks, and their sheep go to a distance.

602. Mr. *Ridley*.] You have given up that district, you say?—Yes.

603. When you gave it up, what became of the population?—We had not above 10 or 20 men carrying on this operation of sinking shafts and driving levels; it was only the commencement.

604. Is there any further observation that you wish to make to the Committee?—I am not aware of anything at this moment.

Veneris, 12° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. G. H. Cavendish.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. M. Williams.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *Richard Henry Jackson*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *R. H. Jackson.*

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605. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee what your profession is?—I am a clergyman.

606. Where do you reside?—At a place called Newmarket, in Flintshire.

607. Have you any mines at all in your parish or neighbourhood?—Yes; in the immediate neighbourhood we have the largest lead mine in Flintshire.

608. What is its name?—The Talargoch mine.

609. Has that mine been worked for a long time, or is it a new mine?—It has been worked for a long time. I think the company have regular accounts for about 200 years.

610. Has it been generally a successful mine?—Yes; I believe that is its character, and it has been worked for a very long time.

611. At any rate it is now a dividend-paying mine?—Yes.

612. Do you know the number of miners that work there?—They vary from about 400 to 600. I should put them at about 500, including boys and washers, at the present moment.

613. Do any women work in the mine?—No; only men and boys.

614. Do boys of a tender age work there?—They put them to wash ore when they get to about 12 or 14 years of age.

615. Are you aware of the wages that are paid generally in that neighbourhood?—The wages till 1853, I think, were 10*s.* a week; at that time there was a very serious strike among the miners, and the partners agreed to give them 15*s.* a week after that strike.

616. Are you sufficiently acquainted with the mode of working the mines to state whether they work by piecework or for daily wages?—The partners clear the sets and the levels for the men to get at the lead, and then they let bargains after that.

617. You can only speak of their average wages?—I think there are only about 150 who work at this piecework, and the rest are what are called adventurers.

618. The very term "adventurer" would seem to imply that the amount of their gain is a risk?—The gain of a common miner is in a measure a risk.

619. How do you reconcile their working at a risk with a rise in their wages of from 10 *s.* to 15 *s.* a week, which you say took place in consequence of the strike of which you have spoken?—That was principally the cause of the strike; the miners complained to the partners, that taking one part of the year with another they did not make the 10 *s.* a week which was stipulated for, and then they had a new sort of letting to enable them to get more.

620. What you mean to say is, that prior to the strike which took place, there was an average gain of about 10 *s.* a week, and that afterwards it was about 15 *s.*?—Yes; but those who venture do not make the 15 *s.* in a great measure yet.

621. Have you any idea of the profits that they make?—No, I cannot exactly speak to the profits in the way in which those gentleman put it the other day, because they were furnished with reports as to their own mines, and they were commercially concerned with them, but I believe that the royalty is, and has been, about 2,000 *l.* a year.

622. What is the royalty?—I am not prepared to say, but I think it is about a fourteenth, though I am not quite certain upon that point.

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623. Who are the lessees of this property?—The Bishop of St. Asaph, Lord Mostyn, and Lady Windsor are the principal proprietors of the soil.

624. Do they own in that district or in that parish other lands, or not?—Yes; the bishop's is a sort of immemorial right to the royalty in the mine; he had no property in the neighbourhood except one farm.

625. He has merely a mineral right?—Yes, he has merely a mineral right, I believe.

626. He has nothing to do with the surface?—No; he has some right on the mountain there, but it affords him very little rent; he has one farm.

627. Do you know when the mineral right was separated from the territorial right, if I may so call it?—I cannot say; but it must have been very far back.

628. For a long period of years there has been a separate interest; the owner of the surface and the partners have been different persons?—Yes, they have been different persons. Sir Peers Mostyn has also a share in the minerals, but not a very large one.

629. Are there many persons in that immediate district who have land, but are not at all interested in these mines?—Yes.

630. Who are the principal adventurers in these mines?—A company, principally from Holywell; the chief of the proprietors, I think, reside there; but the larger proprietor of them is Sir Edward Walker.

631. Do the shares exchange hands at all?—Very seldom. I do not think that the sales are quoted; they buy amongst themselves or their friends when a share is to be bought.

632. How far is Holywell from this mine?—About seven or eight miles.

633. Not in the parish?—No.

634. Then the parties who hold these shares in the mines are otherwise wholly unconnected with the parish?—They are wholly unconnected with the parish. I think that one of them has purchased a small tenement in the neighbourhood; that is all.

635. As a body, are the miners long or short-lived men?—They are short-lived men.

636. Does that arise from the nature of the working, or from accidents happening in the mines?—From the nature of the working; there are very few accidents.

637. Are the mines well ventilated or not?—They are, and they are well cared for, I believe, in every respect.

638. Do the adventurers take fair care of the miners in that way?—They do.

639. Do they take fair care of them as regards education?—There is a large school built close to the works for the mining district; it was meant to be a school for four parishes in proximity to the mines. The company subscribe 20*l.* a year to that school, and Lady Windsor gives 6*d.* a ton on her share of all the lead that is raised.

640. Can you state the number of children that there are at school?—The number varies. At times it is more difficult to get them to attend than it is at other times; but I should say that a fair average would be 130 children.

641. Out of those 130 children, how many would be the children of miners, and how many would be the children of persons connected with farms or farm labourers?—I should say that four-fifths of them would be the children of miners.

642. What is the relative proportion paid by the occupiers and proprietors of and adventurers in mines to the sum paid by those who are not connected with mines?—What children pay to the master would have something to do with that; the children pay 1*d.* apiece. Some time ago, when they built this school, all the miners subscribed out of their wages 12*s.* towards the building of it, which came to a sum of 186*l.* 12*s.* The children were to be educated at one halfpenny a week in consequence of this subscription of theirs; but afterwards it was found very difficult to carry on the school with that, and they raised the pay of the children to 1*d.* a week.

643. Can you inform the Committee what sum, when the miners subscribed towards the building of the school, was subscribed by the proprietors of the land?—I have a letter from the incumbent of the parish; I wrote to him for information upon that very subject. He informs me that the National Society gave

gave 100 *l.*; the Parliamentary grant was 200 *l.*; 12 *s.* from the miners each came to 186 *l.* 12 *s.*; and the Honourable R. H. Clive gave 200 *l.*; Mine Company 200 *l.*; and the Mine Company afterwards paid the balance of 400 *l.* 11 *s.* 7 *d.*

644. Is he connected with the mines?—He was, but Lady Windsor has his share now.

645. He gave that sum in consequence of his connexion with the mines?—Yes, in consequence of his connexion with the mines. The farmers carried the stuff, and very handsome schools were built, which, I believe, cost about 1,400 *l.*; they carried the stuff, charging a certain amount for it as their subscription; say each load was worth about 5 *s.*, or something of that sort, they gave it at a nominal value.

646. Did the proprietors of the land subscribe anything?—I have no other names down here than those I have mentioned.

647. As far as that would go, it would appear as if the mines had in a great measure contributed towards the formation of those schools?—They have in some sense, but not entirely, because the farmers, who carried the stones, have very little to do with and care very little about the mining population.

648. Do you think that the expense of carrying is in a ratio with the number of children sent by their labourers to the school?—Certainly, and greater.

649. Then you would say that the contribution from the landed proprietors and those who represent them was in a fair ratio with that coming from the mines?—I should not say the landed proprietors, but the farmers, certainly.

650. They represent the landed proprietors?—Yes.

651. What is the pauperism of that parish?—The pauperism falls very severely upon the ratepayers in consequence of the mortality amongst the miners; I should say it was 50 per cent.

652. Is the pauperism of the parish large or small, first of all?—The pauperism of the parish where the mine is itself is not very large, but it is on the borders of other parishes. Persons come from those other parishes to work in the mine, and the pauperism of the surrounding parishes is greater than the pauperism in the parish in which the mine itself is situated.

653. Is that in consequence of the miners living out of the parish in which the mine is situated?—Yes.

654. How does that arise; is there no accommodation for the miners in the parish in which the mine is situated?—No; the places in which the miners live are very much scattered; there are no houses about the works except three or four, and the engine-house. The miners live from a quarter of a mile to two miles and a half or three miles off the works; they are scattered about the mountain.

655. Are there any clubs belonging to the mine?—No, there is no club belonging to the mine; there are several common benefit societies in this and the neighbouring parishes, but there is no specific club belonging to the mine.

656. Suppose a miner falls ill and his family are in want, and he is in want himself, where does he get relief?—He either comes upon the parish or goes upon his club; very frequently upon both.

657. That club not being connected with the mine?—That club not being connected with the mine; the club does not afford sufficient relief in a great many instances, and the parish generally give 2 *s.* or 3 *s.* in addition.

658. You say the royalty is about 2,000 *l.* a year; what is the rated amount of property in the parish in which that royalty is paid?—The rated property in the parish would not be more than that.

659. About 2,000 *l.* a year?—Yes, I should think more than 2,000 *l.* a year.

660. Do you know at all what is the amount of the poor's-rate in that parish?—I do not know the amount of the poor's-rate in that immediate parish.

661. Are you at all aware how much it is?—I should say it was about three or four shillings in the pound.

662. Can you speak from what you have heard or know as to the relative proportion of paupers there; whether they are persons connected with mining or agriculture?—The majority of the paupers are connected with mining.

663. If any relief is wanted by miners who reside in that parish, it is entirely paid by the agriculturists, is it not?—Yes, entirely by the agriculturists. I can give you the exact state of the rating in my own parish.

664. Your parish is an adjoining parish?—Yes, it is an adjoining parish.

 665. What

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665. What is that parish called?—Newmarket.

666. How far is the limit of your borders from this mine?—The extreme limit of the parish may be a mile from the mine; but the place where the miners live is about two miles off.

667. In case of accident or ill health occurring to those miners who reside in your parish, and work in this mine, your parish pays the whole of the cost that is incurred, does it not?—It pays the whole of the cost that is incurred, unless the man belongs to a club.

668. If, therefore, he is in a club, all the benefits that arise to him from that club arise in consequence of his own individual subscriptions to it?—Yes, they arise in consequence of his own individual subscriptions.

669. Do the proprietors of the mine and the adventurers in the mine in any way assist him?—No.

670. In case he needs anything, all that he receives must come from the ratepayers in your parish?—Yes.

671. Are your ratepayers connected at all as adventurers with the mine?—No.

672. What is the nature of your parish; is it an agricultural parish?—Yes; it is a small parish, containing 950 odd acres. The gross rental is 1,825*l.*, and the rateable value is 1,555*l.*

673. What are the poor's-rates?—4*s.* 3*d.* in the pound.

674. What proportion does the number of poor miners in your parish bear to the number of agricultural poor?—The proportion of poor miners to the agricultural poor is very great.

675. What should you say was the proportion?—I should say that now there were not more than two or three who are agriculturists to 20 or 30 who are miners, or the families of widows of miners.

676. What is the state of wages paid to agricultural labourers in your neighbourhood?—12*s.* a week.

677. Generally throughout the year is there a great demand for labour in your parish or not?—Not so much; but wages rise considerably during the harvest in our country; there are, however, enough people to get in the harvest. The miners do go into the harvest themselves, but not very generally.

678. Suppose these mines were to stop, what would be the effect, as far as your parish is concerned; would the men be able to find labour elsewhere?—I think not, unless they emigrated, or went out of the country, because they are very poor agricultural labourers. A lead miner works for so short a period, that he does not like to go to agricultural labour afterwards; he works for six hours in the day, and finds that quite long enough, for it shortens the duration of his life very much.

679. Then, to a certain extent, the mine is a benefit to your parish; you would have a redundancy of labour if the mine stopped?—We should have a redundancy of labour if the mine stopped; but an iron mine has started in the neighbourhood, and a great many of the lead miners have left the lead mine and gone to the iron mine; so that now we should not be so badly off as we should have been a year or two ago.

680. Is the price of agricultural produce in your neighbourhood higher, or not, in consequence of this mine being there?—I do not think it is a bit higher. The farmers do not sell their produce to the mines, or to the mining population, We are near capital markets, both by rail and steam. We are within two hours and a half of Liverpool, and there are several market-towns in the neighbourhood; farmers prefer selling their produce in large quantities to selling it in small portions.

681. Then whether the mine were there or not would not make any difference as to the value of agricultural produce in that district?—I am sure it would not.

682. Do the farmers in your neighbourhood consider it a grievance that they have to maintain the mining poor?—Very great; it is a continual source of complaint amongst them.

683. Has there ever been any proposal made to the mining company to assist in any way?—No, I rather think not; I do not see how a proposal could be made that they would meet.

684. They have never contributed to anything?—No, except in cases of this kind:

kind: a man was killed in the works, and I made a subscription among the partners for his family, and they have been very liberal.

685. Do you think that the value of the mine to the parish by giving employment to the redundant poor, compensates for the expense that the parish is put to in maintaining the poor occasioned by the mines?—Nothing of the sort; if we only had to keep the worn-out agriculturists, our poor-rates would be very small indeed.

686. If the mine were to stop, you do not think that the poor who would be down upon you for want of employment would be of any serious amount?—Yes, I think they would; but not so much so as formerly, in consequence of the opening of a new mine in a different metal.

687. What is your acreage?—About 950 acres.

688. And is the rental 1,825 *l.*?—Yes, 1,825 *l.*

689. Do the miners in your parish farm small pieces of land?—There are a few of them who may have as much as from two to four acres, but they are very few, and they pay a very high rent for it if they can get it, because their mining wages and time enable them to purchase and keep a cow better than the agricultural labourers.

690. Do they rent enough of the parish to make any sensible difference upon the rateable value of the property in the parish?—No; the farmers are large farmers.

691. Can you speak of any other parish in that neighbourhood?—There are three other parishes in the same position.

692. Will you mention some other parish?—There is the parish of Gwaenysgor. In that parish the support of the miner may be fairly put at about 50 per cent. on the poor-rates; I should say half what it cost to support the agricultural and other poor.

693. Do you know the rental of the parish at all?—That parish is 795 acres; the rental is 1,107*l.*, and the rateable value 968 *l.*

694. What is the poor-rate?—Four shillings in the pound.

695. And half of that goes towards the maintenance of the poor miners?—And their families.

696. In that parish are there any parties who are connected with the mines?—No, none.

697. Do the farmers get indirectly any profit from the mine, in the way of cartage?—The large farmers do not care about doing anything of that sort; that would only be done by the very small farmers. There are very few who would undertake that kind of business.

698. Have they a redundant population?—They have.

699. Would they suffer much if the mines were to stop?—They would; their population is 380; that is a large population to 794 acres agricultural.

700. As far as the produce of the parish goes, is that at all affected by the sale of it to the miners; is the price of it higher than it would be if the miners were not there?—In the case of small commodities, it would be so; but as regards wheat and barley, and the staple produce of the farms, the price is not affected by the presence of the miners.

701. There are many little farmers who would simply be market-gardeners; would they be affected much, do you think?—There are no market-gardeners, or anything of that sort. A man who kept one cow, perhaps, would find more difficulty in selling his milk, or something of that sort; but the farmers in general would not be affected by it at all.

702. Taking the parish as a whole, are they large or small farmers?—I think they are large farmers, taking the parish as a whole. The farms, with a few exceptions, are from 50 or 60 to 200 acres.

703. And they are generally independent of the miners?—Yes.

704. They do not care whether they sell to them or not?—Not at all.

705. But it is only a matter of accommodation to the miners when they do sell to them?—A farmer will not waste his time in selling his produce in small quantities.

706. In point of fact, the farmers have a ready market elsewhere for their produce?—Yes; they have two or three markets.

707. As far as that parish is concerned, do you think that they are more oppressed by maintaining the miners than they would be if the mine were to be stopped and the miners had to search for work elsewhere?—The parish would be

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be very much oppressed if the mine were to stop, for some years, until the widows and children of the miners had died away, and until all traces of the mine had been almost obliterated.

708. Supposing you were to start afresh at the present moment, would they consider the mine, under the circumstances in which this mine is, a benefit or not to the neighbourhood, they having to maintain the pauper miners?—I think not; I think that the balance is too great on the side of the mining population.

709. All the ratepayers in that parish, or almost all of them, are agriculturists, are they not?—No; there are shopkeepers and tavern-keepers.

710. They, I suppose, do derive a profit from them?—They do.

711. Will you mention some other parish?—There is the parish of Dysarth.

712. How far is that from the works?—That is within a mile of the works; I should say that in the parish of Dysarth the greater proportion of the miners live.

713. What is the population of that parish?—I have not data to enable me to say; but I should say that the population of Dysarth would be about 1,000.

714. Do you know at all the rateable value of the property in that parish?—The rateable value in Dysarth would be 2,206 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 *d.*

715. Is it good land?—Yes.

716. Are they large farms there, or small?—They are large farms; there are very few small farms.

717. What number of miners reside there?—I should say that half of them, almost, reside there.

718. Half of the miners?—Yes.

719. Is labour redundant there, or not; does a farmer want more labourers than he can get?—No; he can always get a sufficient number of labourers.

720. Do the large farmers there depend much upon the miners for the sale of their produce?—No; they have very little to say to them.

721. Have you many shopkeepers there?—No; I think there is one principal shopkeeper, and two keepers of taverns.

722. Out of the amount of rates paid, what proportion is paid by the party who had very little to do with the miners?—You mean by the agriculturist.

723. Yes?—I should say about four-fifths.

724. Four-fifths, you think, would be paid by those who have nothing to do, either directly or indirectly, with the mine?—Who do not depend upon the mine.

725. Would they be very seriously affected, as far as rates are concerned, if the mine were to stop?—They would, as far as the rates are concerned. There was a stoppage of the mine last summer; that was a considerable stoppage, and there was a disturbance there; they had to have the military down from Chester; that strike lasted for a very long time; it was the hay harvest when it began, and about October they came to terms with each other; otherwise, had it gone on all through the winter, the consequences would have been very severe indeed to my own and the surrounding small parishes.

726. In case of any quarrel arising in consequence of strikes, and so on, if there is poverty and distress that all falls upon the ratepayer?—Yes, upon the ratepayer.

727. The ratepayer being the agriculturist?—The ratepayer being the agriculturist.

728. And generally having nothing to do with the mine?—They had very little or nothing to do with the mine in the strike that took place last summer. They (the miners) went about and made large collections, which were principally supplied by the gentry, and by the agriculturists of the neighbourhood generally. The partners, of course, did not give them anything, because the war was between the miners and the partners.

729. Take the population of your various parishes, where a large amount is a mining population are they originally inhabitants of those parishes, or do they come and settle there in consequence of the mine being in the adjoining parish?—I have a letter from a rector of one of the parishes upon that very question, in which he says, "It should also be observed that four out of the nine miners who have gained a settlement in the parish were not natives of the parish, but emigrants, and probably it is rather a certainty that they would never have gained a settlement in it, but for Tallargoch mine works."

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730. Would that be the case generally, do you think?—I think not, because in my parish strangers have not come to settle with the miners.

731. Taking the neighbouring parishes as a whole, do you think that one-third of the parties who are there are parties who have emigrated from other mines, and located themselves in these parishes with the view of being near this mine?—No, I think not; the mine having existed, as I say, for so long a period, the miners have been bred and born on the spot in these parishes.

732. What do you say induced the four people you have spoken of to settle where they did?—That was in another parish, not mine; it has so happened there.

733. To what parish are you referring now?—That is Gwaenysgor, a small parish, which has always considered itself very much oppressed by the poor-rate it paid to the support of the mining population.

734. Four out of the nine are emigrants who came there in consequence of the immediate neighbourhood of the mine?—Yes.

735. Taking that parish by itself for a moment, if the mine were to stop and those men who originally belonged to the parish were to be thrown out of employment, that would embarrass that one parish very much, would it not?—Yes, it would.

736. Would that embarrassment be equal, after a while, to the losses which it would sustain by having to maintain the whole of their pauper miners?—The embarrassment would continue if they were out of work; I do not know whether I quite understand the question.

737. I thought you imagined that a great portion of them would locate themselves elsewhere?—Yes.

738. Suppose, after five or six years, the men who belonged to that parish were thrown out of employment, what would happen?—The able-bodied and the young would go away, but the old, and those with families, would remain.

739. But they would shortly be upon the parish?—Yes, they would be upon the parish very soon.

740. If the mine were stopped now, would those miners who really belong to your parish become in a few years such a burthen upon that parish as to make it more costly than it is now to maintain the poor occasioned by these mines?—Is this the meaning of your question; that the mine would eventually gain by the emigration of the miners from the parish?

741. No; supposing that the mine were to stop now, would the parish you speak of, where four out of the nine are emigrants, be losers or gainers by the stopping of the mine?—They would be losers by the stopping of the mine at present.

742. But would they be losers eventually?—No, they would not eventually.

743. The agricultural interest of the parish would not suffer?—No.

744. Would they be gainers?—I am of opinion that they would.

745. Is it your opinion, that in the long run the agriculturists in that parish would be gainers if the mine were stopped?—Yes, after they got over their first difficulty; it would not affect the value of the land.

746. Because you have a ready market for your produce?—Yes, and I conceive that the farms would be as rapidly let if the mine were not there as it is now.

747. If I understand your evidence correctly, it comes to this, that all the agricultural produce in your neighbourhood of any amount is independent of the mine?—Yes, the staple produce is independent of the mine.

748. That the value of the land is independent of the mine?—Yes, I think the value of the land is independent of the mine, on account of the proximity to such good markets.

749. You do not know what the profits of the mine have been at all?—I cannot say; but it is supposed that they have been good, because the shares have been kept amongst the same set.

750. You have never heard of any loss at all?—We have heard of losses from the adventurers, but we do not know how to certify them. The mine is still worked on, and has been so for years and years.

751. And have you every reason to believe that they have been worked to a profit?—Yes; but the partners were at a considerable loss during the strike which occurred last year.

752. Have you ever heard of any application being made on their part to those who

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who held the royalties for a reduction of those royalties in consequence of their losses?—I have not; I may not be able to speak correctly with reference to that question, for I have been only six years in the neighbourhood.

753. If I understand you correctly, the parties who speculate in these mines in no way contribute to the maintenance of the poor miners who, whether from illness, accident, or old age, become chargeable?—Not unless they are landed proprietors, paying to the poor-rates; the mining partners do not themselves.

754. Have you a doctor's fund?—Yes.

755. How is the doctor paid?—He is paid by a deduction of 1 *s.* quarterly, 4 *s.* a year, out of the miner's wages.

756. Does the doctor attend the miner's wife and children for that?—I think not; I think he only attends on the miner himself; he attends at the works, where the partners supply him with an office for a surgery, every Wednesday he lives six miles off.

757. After the company have employed the miner, and got all the wear and tear out of him that is to be got fairly, he then, if he becomes weak, worn-out, and poor, is handed over to the agriculturists, to be maintained out of the poor-rates, which poor-rates are paid entirely by the agriculturists; is not that so?—Yes; the miner has no other course to pursue, unless he has saved a little money.

758. The surface is entirely independent, is it not, of underground rights?—Yes, I think so, because those miners who have tenements pay a very small proportion, compared to the mass of farmers around.

759. The underground rights are quite distinct from the surface rights, are they not, so that there is no connexion between the two?—Yes, in the way of ratepaying it is distinct.

760. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Are the royalties rated to the highway?—I do not know; it is not in my parish that the royalty is paid; the royalty is paid in the neighbouring parish.

761. Do you know whether the mines are rated to the highway?—I cannot say; I rather think not.

762. Is there much traffic from the mines over the road?—There was an immensity of traffic until the Chester and Holyhead Railway had a station within a mile and a half of the mine; and of course, since that time, the traffic that used to tear up the road so much has ceased in a measure.

763. Mr. *Ridley.*] Who are the lords of the mine?—Lord Mostyn, the Bishop of St. Asaph, Lady Windsor, and Sir Pyers Mostyn, he has only a small share.

764. Do you know whether the royalty is reserved in kind, or in money?—It must be in kind, because there was a man residing some time in my parish, who was employed by Lord Mostyn to go and measure the mineral that came to him after it was washed; so that I take it, in that case, it is in kind.

765. You are not able to state, of your own knowledge, whether the lords' dues have been rated to the poor-rate or not?—No, I am not able to state that positively, but I am nearly certain that they have not.

766. Where do the working miners live?—They live in about four parishes surrounding the works.

767. Are the cottages in which they live their own?—They have a good number of cottages of their own, which they have built upon lease, and some have become freehold from having been enclosed from the common.

768. I suppose they are rateable to the poor?—Yes, they are rateable to the poor.

769. I think you said that in your own parish the miners are not, for the greater part, immigrants?—They are not.

770. But they are people who were bred and born there?—They are people who were bred and born there, the works being of so old a date.

771. They are therefore on precisely the same footing as any one else in the parish, whether miner or not?—As regards residence they are in the same position.

772. You have not had imposed upon you any past burthen, nor do you now anticipate any prospective burthen in consequence of the miners having settled in your parish; they would have been chargeable upon the parish under any circumstances, having been born there, whether engaged in mining or not; is not that the case?—Yes; but perhaps the Committee will allow me to make this remark, that a miner marries in our parish; we have several instances of that; he dies very young; his wife is a person from another parish; and she

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and her children, upon her husband's death, become chargeable upon us for ever. What I have said applies, in a great measure, to Flintshire, which is a lead mining county; there are the same hours for work, I think, in most parts of Flintshire that there are in my neighbourhood, and the wages paid are, I think, very much the same.

773. You have said that lately an iron mine has been opened?—Yes.

774. Is there any prospect of the opening of further iron mines in that part of the country, do you think?—They tried another iron mine, closer to me than the one that is now open, but they found that the quantity of ore was not sufficient to justify them in carrying it on.

775. But they are exploring in that part of the country, are they not?—Yes; they have got one mine, where they think there is a great body of iron. It was not known that there was any iron in the neighbourhood until two or three or four years ago.

776. Colonel *Pennant.*] I understand you to say that the agricultural produce, in your opinion, would not be diminished in value, owing to its being in the neighbourhood of such good markets; are not those good markets to a considerable degree dependent upon the mining interest in the neighbourhood?—No; the corn in our part of the country, and the bulk of the produce, is sent generally to Liverpool or to other markets, so that it is independent of any mining consumption in the immediate neighbourhood.

777. Have you a railway near you?—The station is within a mile and a half of the works.

778. You were asked whether the royalties were rated to the highways, and you said you were not able to answer positively, because the royalties of mines were not paid in the parish in which you reside, but in the neighbouring parish?—Yes.

779. Would you not have a right to claim a portion of the rates on those royalties if they were rated to the highway rate, although the payment was made in another parish, supposing any part of the works upon which that royalty is paid to be in your parish?—No, we could not claim any portion of it in our parish, because it would be rated in the other.

780. Mr. *Colvile.*] You say that the miners only contribute to the rates in the parish by paying rates on their dwellings?—Yes.

781. With regard to the indirect advantage which your parish gains from these mines, you have said that corn produced in your parish goes to Liverpool; but with regard to the rest of the agricultural produce, such as meat, butter, milk, and cheese, where is that consumed or sold?—It goes to two markets, Rhyl and Holywell principally, both of which places are about six miles off.

782. Where do the miners buy those necessaries of life?—From little shops in the neighbourhood.

783. With regard to their tea, sugar, and matters of that kind which they buy at the shops, they buy them also in the neighbourhood, I suppose?—Except those who have a little money, and they frequently go further off to get the produce where they can get it cheaper than they can at the small shops in the neighbourhood; some of the men get very good wages, and they do that when they have a little money to spare.

784. Still the butcher, and the seller of butter, milk, and tea and sugar, must be benefited considerably, must they not, by the presence of a mining population, as they must eat?—The small butcher is benefited by the presence of a mining population; two or three small butchers are, but the larger butchers take their meat to the towns.

785. You have said that the miners are no assistance to the farmers; do they not assist them in harvest time, when extra labour is required?—They do, but the farmers could do without them, inasmuch as great numbers of people come down from the upper parts of Wales to the coast to be hired for the harvest; the little market towns around have days for hiring, Monday mornings. The farmers generally do not make use of the miners in harvest time much, but the miners do go to the harvest; and a very curious fact is, that they go a little way off, and not in the neighbourhood of their own works.

786. But their presence in the neighbourhood during the busy time of harvest must be a positive advantage, must it not?—It is an advantage, but not so great an advantage as you would fancy, unless you were upon the spot, and there is no doubt the harvest was an advantage to the miners during the strike which took place last year.

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787. You have described your districts as having good markets, and you say that the farming interest would not suffer if the mines were shut up; do you consider that peculiarly applicable to your own district, or do you consider it to be a general principle applicable to the whole of the mining districts of England and Wales?—I do not mean to say that they positively would not lose something if the mines were entirely shut up, but it would be a very small proportion, inasmuch as a very small proportion is sold to the miners compared with what is sold in larger quantities.

788. But taking the mining districts of the United Kingdom generally, where they have not the advantage of those good markets, do you not think that the loss would be very serious to the agricultural interest if those consumers of their produce were removed?—Yes, where there are not markets, certainly.

789. Do you not think that it would be fully as serious to them as the extra expense to which they are put by having to pay rates towards the support of poor miners?—Probably that might be so, but I should require a greater knowledge of the locality to enable me to answer that question with any degree of confidence.

790. I assume you admit that yours is an exceptional case?—I think it is rather an exceptional case, inasmuch as we are, as I have said before, very near to good markets.

791. You say there are 500 people employed in these mines, and you have also said you believe that if these mines were shut up, a good many of the miners would remain behind and become a burden upon the land; can you form any judgment how many of them would remain behind?—No, I could not say; the only way in which I could give an answer to that question would be by referring to what took place on the occasion of former strikes. In the strike that took place last summer a few did go away; they were obliged to go away; there were 40 or 50 men turned off by the proprietors, because they were supposed to be men who had instigated the strike; but out of them I do not think that more than 12 have gone away out of the neighbourhood; two of them have gone to Australia; the effect of that upon the mines hereafter may be very considerable.

792. Are not miners generally an enterprising class of men, who, when their work ceases in one locality, will move to another where they can get employment?—That may be generally the case, but miners in our part of the country are usually very much attached to their peculiar localities. Some of them have got a little cottage, and if they can, they will remain where they are; nothing but great necessity will drive them away from the place.

793. Would the difference in their language make any difference in that respect; does the fact of their speaking Welsh operate to confine them to their own district?—If they did not know any English it certainly would be an inducement for them to remain at home, but in consequence of the establishment of schools, a great many of them now know more English than they did.

794. That, however, is another circumstance which makes yours an exceptional case?—Yes.

795. During the strike which took place last year, how many extra persons were there thrown on the poor-rates?—There were not many thrown on the poor-rates during the strike; it made scarcely any difference in that respect. It happened at a very peculiar time of the year, the commencement of the hay harvest, and ended in October; they made large collections also in the neighbourhood, to the amount of some hundreds of pounds.

796. I presume other workmen also employed in different districts in the neighbourhood contributed to their support?—No; I think there was no union; the money was principally contributed I believe by men who were not miners.

797. At all events, the agricultural interest upon that occasion received no injury from the presence of the miners?—Very slight indeed.

798. You were asked whether the lords out of their royalties paid highway-rates, and you said you did not know; do they pay tithes?—Tithes of minerals?

799. Yes?—No.

800. Do they contribute anything towards the support of the Church by law?—No, I think not.

801. Mr. *Vivian.*] You say that the markets of Rhyl and Holywell are good; can you state what is the population of those two places?—The population of the parish of Holywell is about 9,000.

802. And

802. And what is the population of Rhyl?—The population of Rhyl varies very much; there are about 3,000 strangers in Rhyl for about six months in the year, and that creates a tremendous demand for all sorts of things.

803. On what does the prosperity of Holywell depend?—On the neighbourhood round it; it is a different sort of place from Rhyl altogether; it is more inland.

804. Are there not large smelting works in the neighbourhood of Holywell?—Very large; there are chemical works also.

805. For what purpose are the smelting works used?—For the smelting of lead.

806. Do they smelt the produce of these mines?—Yes.

807. In your opinion, supposing these mines were to stop, would the prosperity of Holywell be materially affected?—As regards those great smelting works they are of course a great benefit to the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and to the trade of Holywell; I would scarcely connect them with the lead ore works in my locality.

808. But the produce of the mine in your district goes to Holywell to be smelted, does it not?—It is sold in that neighbourhood.

809. Consequently if the lead mining in the county of Flint were to stop, would not the prosperity of Holywell be materially affected?—The prosperity of Holywell would be materially affected.

810. Then the market of Holywell would be materially affected, would it not?—Yes; I fancy that the market would in some measure be affected, but not to the extent that it has been affected by former difficulties in the country.

811. What were those difficulties?—The stoppage of large cotton manufactories, and the stoppage of a large banking concern; the stoppage of the cotton manufactories in the neighbourhood created a very great dearth of employment, and Holywell has never been the same place since the stoppage of those cotton manufactories; the smelting works there but partially removed the slackness of employment created in all sorts of trade by the stoppage of those works: it has been a poorer place ever since.

812. I think that the mine of Tallargoch produces large quantities of zinc ore—black jack?—Yes.

813. Where is that smelted?—In the neighbourhood of Holywell principally.

814. There are some large works opened there by Mr. Crockford, are there not?—Yes.

815. In which works numbers of men are employed?—Yes.

816. I suppose the goodness of the market at Holywell depends mainly upon the industrious operations that have been conducted there, does it not?—Not mainly.

817. Then you think that the smelting works in the neighbourhood of Holywell might cease without materially affecting the Holywell market?—It would affect them in some degree, but not so seriously as you would be led to suppose unless you knew the locality. The number of persons employed in the smelting works is not so large as all that.

818. As to the 500 miners who are employed in this mine; what amount of population do they represent?—I should think about 2,000; from 1,800 to 2,000, taking their wives and families, and also including in that the small shopkeepers and tavern-keepers, who live by the mines mostly.

819. Are the 2,000 inhabitants residing in those three or four parishes immediately adjoining the mine large consumers of agricultural produce?—Some of them are; I cannot say that they all are to any great extent. They are tavern-keepers principally, and shopkeepers.

820. Still, I presume that as they get good wages, they live well, do they not?—They do; but they do not live much better than the miner does himself.

821. I am speaking of the miner himself. He is a considerable consumer of agricultural produce, is he not?—Yes.

822. He eats beef and mutton, and butter and cheese, and potatoes, does he not?—He eats very little beef or mutton.

823. But he lives well, does he not?—Yes.

824. Is that which he consumes imported from other distant localities, or is it the produce of your immediate neighbourhood?—Some of it comes from Denbigh, a large town near where there is a much better district for meat than ours is. They have a sort of fair at Meliden every month, which the small butchers attend.

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825. Do the miners then get their supply of meat monthly?—No; but they buy more upon that occasion than they do at other times. It is a large market, called a fair. They receive their wages on that day.

826. Do the miners in your immediate locality draw any of their supplies from Holywell or Rhyl?—I do not think that the butchers generally think it worth while to attend there. There are small butchers in the neighbourhood who attend there.

827. Where do those small butchers in the neighbourhood purchase their beasts?—From farmers in the neighbourhood.

828. Do you consider that that is an advantage to those farmers, or not?—I think that the farmers themselves could sell them equally well if those little butchers, who kill for the miners, were not to buy from them.

829. You have stated that the value of the land in the parishes with which you are acquainted, and in which these mines are situated, is about 40*s.* an acre; may that be assumed to be the average value of land in the county of Flint, or is it above the average?—It is above the average; my parish happens to be a remarkably high-let parish. Adjoining parishes are not near as high-let as mine.

830. The mine has been established in an adjoining parish to you for two centuries?—Yes.

831. Do you not attribute some portion of the high letting of the land in your parish to its proximity to the mine?—No.

832. To what do you attribute it?—A person came there about a century ago, before the land passed into the possession of Lord Mostyn's family, and endeavoured to establish a town there; he built a market-place and a town-hall, and gave the place an unnatural spur for some time; and when this person became insolvent and died, the land, which was high let, never receded to the letting of land in the surrounding parishes.

833. Have the farmers from time to time become paupers in that parish, or are the farmers in the adjoining parishes making their fortunes?—No; but it is very difficult to get land in Wales; a farmer will pay an extremely high price to get and to retain a farm there.

834. One would think that one of two things must occur, either that the farmers in your parish must be losing money, or that those in the adjoining parishes must be gaining money?—I think that the farmers in the adjoining parishes are very much better off than the farmers in my parish; they certainly are.

835. Then you attribute the high letting of the land in your parish, not to the industrial operations connected with your parish, but to the acts of a person a century ago; is that what you wish the Committee to understand?—It has a great deal to do with it.

836. It has a great deal to do with some circumstance which occurred a century ago?—Yes.

837. Do you conceive that if the mines, and all the industrial operations in your neighbourhood, were to cease, the value of the land would continue as it is at present?—In my parish I think it would.

838. Do you think it would continue as it is at present in the parishes adjoining you?—Yes, in the parishes adjoining this mine; I cannot see why the value of the land should recede.

839. Would you say that one mine in your neighbourhood might stop without any material diminution occurring in the value of land in your neighbourhood, but that if all the mining operations in the county of Flint were to stop, following upon which would be the stoppage of the works in the neighbourhood of Holywell, you conceive the value of land would diminish generally?—I can scarcely say that the value of the land would diminish; what I mean to say is, not that the value of the land would diminish, but that the market in Holywell would be affected.

840. If the market in Holywell were affected, would not that affect the value of the land?—I do not think that the one follows upon the other at all.

841. You have stated that the rates in your parish are 4*s.* 3*d.* in the pound, and that in Gwanysgor they are 4*s.* in the pound; can you inform the Committee what is the average rating of the county of Flint, especially in parishes in which no mines are situated?—No, but I can give a sort of answer to your question, and it is this; that I hold land in the parish in which I reside, and I hold six acres in an adjoining parish, which is not so much of a mining parish

as

as mine is, and I pay a rate of 6*d.* in the other parish when I always pay 1*s.* in my own; we are double rated in my parish as compared to the rating in the adjoining parish, which is not so much a mining parish as ours; indeed, there are very few mines in it; there are collieries in it, but not lead mines. A collier does not die at an early age, or leave a large family chargeable upon the parish so much as a lead miner does; a collier lives to a much greater age in his employment than a lead miner does.

842. Is that owing to there being a better system of ventilation in the collieries than there is in lead mines?—No; but the collier does not get what is called the lead fever, which is the destruction of all our people; they imbibe small particles of lead, and when they have once done that, they scarcely ever survive.

843. Are you able to state what is the average of the poor-rates in the county of Flint?—No, I am not able to state that.

844. How is the ore conveyed from the smelting works to the place of shipment?—The county of Flint is a very narrow slip of land; all along it there runs a railway, and all along the line of this railway there are smelting works; the ore is brought to the different stations, and it is carried principally by rail, whenever they can do so, but otherwise it is taken in carts.

845. How is it conveyed in your particular district?—It goes by railway.

846. By locomotives?—By locomotives.

847. Have the lords no interest in the surface whatever?—The lords have an interest in the surface; the landed proprietor has an interest in the surface.

848. The principal owner of the surface is Lord Mostyn?—Yes, and Lady Windsor; there are about three owners there; their properties come in together, Lord Mostyn and Lady Windsor, and Sir Pyers Mostyn, I believe..

849. Are Lord Mostyn, Lady Windsor, and Sir Pyers Mostyn the owners of the entire surface, or are there other owners who have no mineral rates?—There would be other small owners, who have purchased property, probably, in the neighbourhood, the lord of the soil reserving the minerals.

850. Since the establishment of the mines?—Yes, since the establishment of the mines.

851. They have purchased property, being perfectly well aware that the rates were not paid by the miners?—Yes.

852. The owners of the minerals, being at the same time the chief owners of the surface, actually, through their tenants, pay rates, do they not?—Yes.

853. Consequently the rates are borne by the same parties who own the mineral rights?—Yes; but the pressure of paying the rate can scarcely be said to come upon it in that way; it is the farmer who feels great pressure of the poor-rate, in consequence of the mortality occasioned among the miners around him.

854. Do you not conceive that it all eventually falls upon the landowner; that it adjusts itself in the rent?—I think it ought to do so in a greater measure than it does; but perhaps you may not consider that a fair answer to your question.

855. *Chairman.*] With the exception of the bishop's holding, are we to understand that the proprietors of the underground royalties and the proprietors of the soil are the same persons?—With the exception of the bishop. He has a manorial right.

856. What proportion does the bishop hold of the mineral rights?—I cannot exactly say; I think they are about equal.

857. Does he hold a fourth?—No; there are three who are about equal, and Sir Pyers Mostyn has a much smaller share. I should say that the others are about equal.

858. It is not quite a third?—Not quite a third.

859. A good deal has been said about the Holywell district; there are other things besides lead works in Holywell; are there chemical works there?—Yes.

860. If the produce that comes from your neighbourhood, lead and zinc, were taken away from Holywell, would it not affect Holywell very much?—There are a great many other works; it would affect it, but not very materially.

861. Suppose Holywell were expunged from the map; suppose there were no such place as Holywell; would not that affect the sale of the produce of the lands in your immediate neighbourhood, or would the produce of those lands find a market elsewhere?—It would not affect my parish.

862. Would it affect the other parishes?—It must affect those round Holywell.

 863. How

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863. How would it be with reference to the immediate parish in which you live; would it affect those parishes which are nearest to the mine in question?—No, it would not affect the value of land there.

864. If Holywell were expunged from the map, it would not affect the sale of the produce of these farms?—Not in my immediate neighbourhood.

865. You say your farms are let at a rent above the average for land in Flintshire; is that because the land is better?—I cannot tell you exactly what the reason is, but the land in the parish is very irregularly let, and I think it has been badly looked after, as far as agency goes; there is no reason why it should be so, but there are some farms on one side of a fence let for double the rent of the next farms to them, and no reason can be assigned for it at all; it is a very unevenly let parish.

866. You told us just now that some of your miners build houses sometimes?—Yes.

867. Are those men who have been speculating and who have been successful in their speculations?—A miner who has been successful in his venture, and who has got a little money; probably 50 *l.* or 60 *l.* in a month.

868. When the miners risk in a venture do they sometimes suffer very much?—I have known an instance in which a man has been engaged six months without getting anything at all; he has had to pay the company for candles and gunpowder during the whole time, and instead of receiving any wages there has been a bill against him at the end of the time.

869. If by a little speculation, industry, and so on, he saves a little money and wishes to build a house, does he take a lease for lives, or what kind of a lease does he take?—For lives or for a term of years, whichever he can obtain the easiest.

870. The moment he builds that house, and which is the produce of his own industry and self-denial, he is rated?—Yes.

871. But the royalty, which is subject to no risk, is never rated?—No, it is never rated.

872. So that supposing in your neighbourhood a second farm is found (an underground farm), and the proprietor lets it for a royalty, which is a rent, he is not at all rateable upon that rent?—No, he is not.

873. But the moment the miner earns a little money, and invests it in a house, which is his little farm above ground, he is rated in respect of that house?—Yes, he is.

874. Is beef and mutton dearer in your immediate neighbourhood than it is elsewhere in Wales?—No, I do not think it is.

875. Mr. *Ridley.*] Upon what length of lease are the mines of which you have been speaking let?—I do not know; a very long lease.

876. Are you to able to say whether those leases are running out now, or whether they have been renewed lately?—I believe not; I believe that the lease is of very long continuance, provided the company keep up the works with a certain amount of hands.

877. *Chairman.*] Supposing the whole of the mining operations were to cease throughout your district, do you think that rents would fall in consequence?—That is rather a hard question to answer. Do you mean if the whole of the mining operations in Flintshire were to cease.

878. Yes, the mining and the smelting?—You do not include collieries.

879. No?—Of course I can only give an individual opinion; I should think it would not affect the value of the land in my own and the parishes around Talargoch Mine.

880. Did you ever hear a miner complain on account of his being rated for his house while the royalties were not rated?—No; I do not think that a poor miner understands the question deeply enough to enter into the question so far as that.

881. You have been asked to give an opinion as to other mining districts. Have you ever given your attention at all to other mining districts?—I cannot say that I have.

882. Have you any further suggestions to make to the Committee?—I would say this, that there is an exceeding great anxiety in the county of Flint that the mines should be rated. Some of the lead proprietors themselves think it better that they should be rated: we had a division in our Board, and they sent a petition to the House of Commons relative to this question. Two years ago we divided

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divided the Board upon the matter; it was rather a large Board, and on that occasion only two persons opposed it, and they were connected with lead works and smelting works.

883. How many parishes did the Board represent?—Fourteen.

884. The Board of Guardians of what?—Of Holywell; representing all the parishes around.

885. Fourteen parishes?—Yes; almost all mining. I forget how many persons there were altogether, but only two out of rather a full Board were adverse to the rating of mines; the rest were for rating them: that was about two years ago. At an early part of this year there was a division of the Board upon the same question, and the Board upon that last occasion was unanimous in favour of rating the mines; there was also present a lead proprietor of some influence, who spoke in favour of rating the mines.

886. You mean of rating the royalties?—Yes, of rating the royalties.

887. Was any opinion offered as to whether the rate should be paid by the adventurers or by the lords?—No opinion was offered upon that point; it was merely as to the necessity, if possible, of procuring lead mines to be rated to the poor-rates.

888. Was it that the royalties should be rated?—They did not specify the royalties.

889. Does anything else occur to you which it would be desirable to state to the Committee?—I would observe that the lead miner and the collier are two very different beings as regards their health and the length of their lives. A collier has been known to work in collieries and to live to the age of 70 and past; whereas the lead miner, if he begins to work early, invariably falls off at an early age; and those miners who are buried at the age of 60 or 70 will always be found to have been men who were 25 or 30 years of age before they went into the work, having settled their constitutions before they went into the lead mines. They generally die, leaving their widows, comparatively speaking, young women; and their children, in consequence of the early period of life at which a miner dies, are left for a very long time burdens upon the parish, because they live as long as any other persons.

890. They are not affected by the lead fever?—No, the wives and children are not. I beg to remark, in conclusion, that I am neither a landed proprietor, a lead owner, or a tithe owner in Flintshire. I am in no way interested in the taxing or non-taxing of lead mines.

William Price Struvé, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. P. Struvé, Esq.

891. Mr. *Vivian.*] YOU are a Mining Engineer in South Wales?—Yes, I am; and also a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

892. Where do you reside?—At Swansea.

893. Are you acquainted with the whole of the South Wales mineral coal fields?—I have had very great experience there. I am consulting engineer to many large concerns in South Wales; and I suppose I may say that I am partly responsible for the direction of mines which perhaps represent the raisings in coal and mine of half a million of tons per annum.

894. Have you considered the probable effect of rating iron mines to the poor on the iron workings of South Wales?—The collieries of course are rated to the poor, and in many cases the iron mine is very closely associated with our coal beds; they are worked by the same shafts, and by means of the same machinery. I think there would be some complication in apportioning what belongs to coal and what belongs to mine. In other cases, our iron mines are worked, irrespective of coal, in beds by themselves. I think that, as a general thing, rating our iron mines in South Wales would be prejudicial to the mining interests of that part of the country.

895. You consider that great complications would occur, owing to the fact that beds of iron mine and beds of coal are worked together through the same pits and shafts, which pits are already rated as coal mines in most cases?—Exactly so. They are already rated; and it is very likely, I think (but I cannot say positively it is so), that coal mines are, under those circumstances, rated higher than they would be if the mines were not worked to those pits; for it requires a larger amount of plant and gives more importance to the pit than would be the case if the mine were not worked at the same time.

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896. You consider that it would be very difficult to assess what rate should be levied upon a mine, and what rate should be levied upon coal derived from the same pit?—I think there would be a difficulty in it; there are many collieries where there are accompanying beds of mine. Perhaps there may be mine lying immediately upon the roof of the coal bed; some of it is brought down in the course of working the coal, and sometimes it is worked subsequently to the coal, but all coming out through the same openings. Then of course the capital employed in the plant used in opening that mine would be applicable to both purposes, and it would be necessary to apportion the capital which had been laid out in order to assess the rateable value of the coal distinct from the mine.

897. Is this mine worked by blast furnaces?—Yes.

898. Are those blast furnaces rated to the poor?—Yes, they are, and they are rated rather heavily in some cases; they vary from perhaps 70 *l.* a furnace, and I dare say that some are rated as high as 250 *l.*

899. Each furnace?—Yes.

900. Has that 250 *l.*, in your judgment, reference to the capital laid out in the construction of the furnace, or (if I may be allowed to use the term) to the transactions of the furnace?—It has reference to the capital laid out in the furnace; it has reference to the operation which is performed in the furnace; but still I think it may be considered that the mine is in that respect rated to the poor, for that furnace is put up for the smelting of iron; and I think it might be almost contended that the mine is not completely worked till the iron is got out of it.

901. Then in fact the rating is rather upon the production (the iron) as a whole than on the single parts?—I should interpret it in that way, I think.

902. These mines of ironstone are almost invariably in the hands of those who afterwards smelt it, are they not?—That is the case almost invariably.

903. The manufacturer who smelts his iron, generally speaking, works his mine as well, does he not?—Yes.

904. So that, in rating the blast furnace, you, in fact, rate the iron mine as well?—I think you do; I think the ironmasters would consider it so generally.

905. Can you state whether, between cases where ironstone and coal are worked from the same pits or levels, and cases in which coal alone is worked from those levels, any difference in rating takes place?—No, I could not say that. The rating the coal would, more or less, depend upon the value of that coal; the value of the coal might not be the same in both cases; it might be difficult, perhaps, to draw a comparison.

906. Have you made any calculations as to the amount of the rate per ton, assuming the rate to be assessed upon the royalty?—In a general way I think I may say that a furnace producing 150 tons of iron per week will consume about two tons of Welsh mine to a ton of iron; that would be about 300 tons of Welsh mine per week. If the mine were rated to the poor, it would depend, of course, upon what the rate would be; but, assuming it to be 6 *d.* a ton, and that there were four rates in the year, which is not an uncommon thing in Wales, it would amount to somewhere about from 70 *l.* to 80 *l.* a furnace as a payment in money.

907. That is to say, each furnace would be rented at five times that amount?—Yes; it would be like putting an additional rental upon the furnace of about 390 *l.* per annum.

908. You say 6 *d.* a ton; that is the royalty, is it not?—Yes.

909. Is that the common royalty paid for iron mine?—Yes; it is sometimes higher than that, but 6 *d.* is a common royalty.

910. What would the rate be per ton of ironstone, assuming the royalty to be 6 *d.* a ton, and the rate to be assessed upon the royalty?—If the rate were assessed on the royalty, and there were 4 *s.* rates, it would be about a penny and a fifth a ton, which the lessee of the mine, if he paid the rates, would have to pay upon all the mine raised, and that would be quite a new tax, or whatever you may call it, upon the whole of the raisings in South Wales, which would be a very serious matter, I think.

911. Is the consumption of Welsh mine increasing or decreasing in South Wales?—The Welsh mine in those portions of the coal field which have been hitherto worked by level is exhausting fast; the consequence is, that at many of the large iron works they are sinking very deep pits for the mine. There is considerable difficulty with reference to mine in this way, that a great deal of rubbish

rubbish is brought out. I dare say five tons of rubbish are brought out to a ton of mine, and it comes to a very expensive operation when it comes to sinking pits for mine; that is going on now in South Wales, and is increasing the expense of mining so much.

912. Formerly the whole of the iron produced in Wales was produced from native ore, was it not?—Chiefly from that.

913. Is that the case at the present moment?—Not so much so now as it was formerly. There is a great deal of foreign mine, principally hematite, introduced into Wales now to mix with the Welsh ores; I dare say a third part of what is used in a furnace is imported into Wales.

914. Is that in consequence of the expense of getting Welsh mine, or is it owing to the superior quality of the hematite?—I think it is more owing to the difficulty of getting mine; but it is owing to both, I think.

915. Welsh mine, as a rule, produces a superior class of iron, does it not?—It does.

916. So that, assuming it could be got as cheaply, it would be more largely used, in all probability?—Yes.

917. Consequently the decrease in the consumption of Welsh mine is mainly to be attributed to the excessive cost in getting it?—It is.

918. Do you consider it would be desirable to impose additional burdens upon Welsh mines?—I think it would be very detrimental to them; I think that all mining ought to be dealt with very leniently, because the operation is a very uncertain one.

919. Do you consider that mining in South Wales is attended with great risk and uncertainty?—Yes, I do; there are many instances of mining operations having been quite unsuccessful, and of large capital being quite unremunerative.

920. Can you state anything with reference to the provision which miners make for sickness and death in the way of benefit clubs, sick funds, and so forth?—The miners generally receive very good wages, and in many of the large works they pay to a sick fund as a provision in case of illness; they also have their own clubs; they are also subscribers to building societies, and build many houses; and there are very considerable accumulations from the savings of workmen in our savings banks in South Wales.

921. Generally speaking, does much pauperism exist among the mining population of South Wales?—I should say not.

922. Has it ever come within your knowledge that the rates of a parish have been increased by the opening of mines in that parish?—No, I cannot say so. I should say that opening mines would introduce prosperity to a district wherever it occurs.

923. It benefits the district by creating a demand for labour there?—Yes, and it gives rise to the establishment of manufactories, and a great deal of building, increasing the value of the surface both in a building and in an agricultural point of view.

924. Those buildings and cottages which are erected by the miners are all rated to the poor, are they not?—No doubt.

925. So that the original agricultural value of the district is increased by reason of the house property which arises on account of the opening of the mines?—Very much so; there is no doubt about that.

926. Are you prepared to furnish the Commitee with any data on that point?—I think the most remarkable instance of it, perhaps, would be about the Aberdare district, where the land immediately lets. If any land is applied for for the purpose of building cottages upon it, I do not know of any less quotation than a penny a square yard, which is 20*l.* an acre; and it runs from that to 30*l.* and 40*l.* an acre.

927. What is the value of similar land in districts where no mining operations are carried on?—I suppose abut 20*s.* an acre.

928. Are the children of miners in the habit of allowing their parents, when they become old and worn out, to go upon the parish for relief?—Not as a general rule, I should think, particularly where education prevails. I dare say there are some instances of it; but I do not know that I could speak positively as to that.

929. What do you think would be the effect of stopping mining operations in any particular district; do you think that the rates would be increased thereby upon

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upon the agricultural portions?—There can be no doubt about that; I should conceive it, wherever it did arise, to be a very great calamity.

930. Do you consider that the imposition of an additional tax, say a penny a ton upon Welsh mine, would have the effect of checking the raising of Welsh mine to a certain extent?—I do not know whether it would check it exactly, because the country is in such a state of prosperity that the stuff must be had out; but it would be considered as a very great burden; it has got a certain impetus now, and it would be difficult to stop it; but I am quite sure at the same time that it would be considered a very heavy burden.

931. I believe you have been consulted a good deal by landowners as to the granting of mineral leases?—Yes, I have been a good deal consulted both by lessees and lessors.

932. Have you experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining a higher royalty than 6*d.* a ton?—Yes.

933. Would the imposition of an extra 1*d.* a ton be resisted, do you think, by lessees, and would it tend in many instances, do you think, to break off negociations for leases?—Yes, I was going to make use of that expression myself if you had not introduced it into your question. I was going to say that it would be quite enough to break off a negociation. A penny a ton more or less would be regarded as a very serious matter.

934. If it would be regarded as a serious matter by a lessee on taking a lease, the imposition of a tax of that amount would be regarded as a serious matter by that lessee, would it not?—I think so.

935. You are engaged in mining operations yourself, are you not?—I am interested partly in some mining works. I am not the lessee of any mine.

936. But you are interested?—Yes.

937. Are you interested in raising iron mines?—Not iron mines.

938. You are interested exclusively in raising coal?—Yes.

939. And coal is rated to the poor?—Yes, coal is rated to the poor.

940. But in spite of being rate-payer yourself, you consider it would be impolitic to place an additional tax on iron mines?—Yes, I do. I say that quite without reference to myself; I think it would be felt very much by the iron trade if that tax were imposed on them.

941. *Chairman.*] What wages are generally earned by your miners?—They vary in South Wales. I should think from 18*s.* a week to 30*s.* In the Aberdare district, I should think, a miner would think nothing of 5*s.* a day.

942. Is it a fact then that your miners, as a body, get as high wages as are given in any part of England?—I cannot answer that question.

943. Are they provident as a body?—I should think they were provident as a body. A great many houses are built by workmen, which I should think is a proof of it.

944. And the amount of pauperism is small amongst them, is it not?—I think that there are not many paupers amongst them.

945. You say that the sons assist their parents; is that, in your opinion, because they may be compelled by law to do so, or does it arise from the general good feeling which exists among the miners?—Both causes would operate with them very likely; both the law and their own good feeling.

946. A miner generally gets such good wages, does he not, that he would be in a position in which he might be compelled by law to maintain his parent?—Very much so I think.

947. You spoke just now of mines in which there is coal alone, and mines in which you have coal and iron mixed; which is the most valuable, a mine where you simply raise coal, or one where you have beds of alternating coal and iron?—That would depend on circumstances. Where mine is associated with coal it is sometimes a great advantage, and is worked more cheaply than where it is worked specially by itself.

948. Generally speaking, which do you consider the most valuable?—I think I would rather have the coal and mine mixed.

949. Then the greater the value the less it ought to be rated to the poor; does it not come to that?—You only rate the coal at present.

950. Taking it as a rule, where you have mine and coal alternating, that property is more valuable than where you have a coal bed alone?—Yes.

951. If that is so, then the more valuable property is rated at less than the less

less valuable property?—I thought that your question had reference to the working of the mine. It affords a facility for working mine sometimes when it is associated with coal; it comes down easily, and is worked easier than when you have to make an excavation distinctly for the mine; my answer had reference more to that part of the question. As regards the proprietor, it would very much depend upon the quality of the coal.

952. I am taking it as a general question, whether a property having mine and coal alternating is more valuable than a property having simply coal?—It would altogether depend upon what sort of coal it was; some coal is exceedingly valuable in South Wales; steam coal for marine purposes.

953. Have you mined any of that?—Yes; but it is not worked in those collieries if it can be helped; they go at the coal, and it is the coal they look for and work.

954. It so far depends upon circumstances, that you can hardly give a distinct answer to the question?—Yes, it is very difficult to do so.

955. When coal and iron are mixed is there any difficulty in getting at the value of the iron; how do you work the iron; by the ton, or how?—By the ton.

956. You always ascertain the quantity of iron raised?—Yes; it goes over the machine, and is weighed in the same manner as coal when it is raised.

957. If it were determined to impose a rate on iron, there would be no difficulty, would there, in ascertaining the quantity raised?—No.

958. With regard to the quality of the ironstone and hematite imported into Wales, is the iron generally which is made by a mixture of hematite with iron ore better than the iron made from the ore alone which you find in Wales?—I think, speaking generally, that the ironstone, if it could be got in sufficient quantities by itself, would be preferred, but it is very difficult to get a sufficient quantity to use by itself. It is a very heavy question, that of raising large quantities of mine; 4,000 tons a month would not be a large quantity; that would supply four moderate furnaces; but to raise 4,000 tons of mine in a month, you would have to raise 15,000 or 16,000 tons of rubbish also.

959. Then it is not that the hematite is particularly useful?—Yes; hematite is very good mine, but the Welsh mine is considered very excellent.

960. Can you, generally speaking, make as good iron with the iron you get in Wales as you do with the admixture of the hematite introduced into another country?—Quite as good.

961. Then the only reason why you get it, is because of the facility with which it is raised in other countries, and it is imported at a less price than you could raise the mine for in your own country?—It would be that very much; it would be a commercial question.

962. Of the mines of which you have charge, which is the largest?—The largest would be the Cwm Avon works.

963. In what parish is that?—It is in a variety of parishes; they are very extensive works, occupying several square miles of ground.

964. Is the mineral property apart from the surface property; do the lessors own the surface?—The lessors are the owners of the mine, and of the surface also.

965. Are there any parties in that immediate parish who hold large farms unconnected with the mineral part of the district?—No, I think not; I think the owner of the mine is the owner of the surface, but there are cases where property has been sold, reserving the mine.

966. When mines were known to exist there?—Yes; when mines were known to exist there.

967. Do you know any district at all, or any parish where there is a mine of any moment, where there are proprietors of other lands in the parish wholly unconnected with mines?—There are such cases I know in the Aberdare district.

968. Do you know that district well?—Yes, I know it very well; but I do not know that I could mention the particular parts.

969. But there are farms held by proprietors who have nothing to do with the mines in that neighbourhood?—Yes, who have nothing to do with the mines; they own the surface, but not the mineral.

970. The coal in that district is rated to the poor?—Yes.

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971. The iron is not, I believe?—The iron mines are not rated.

972. Have you any iron quarries that are rated?—We have some iron quarries in Wales.

973. Are they rated to the poor?—I cannot answer that question exactly; I am not quite sure about that.

974. In those cases in which there are proprietors of land in a parish who have nothing to do with mines they are rated to the poor; they pay their proportion to the poor, though they have nothing to do with the mines, do they not?—Yes, their surface would be rated to the poor, of course.

975. In the districts with which you are acquainted, do the landed proprietors benefit indirectly so largely from the mines, that they would be more than compensated, in your opinion, for having to contribute to the poor-rates?—The district I was mentioning just now is really one which would be a very strong case in point, a place called Aberdare; the surface belongs to one person, and the minerals to others; and I fancy that there the surface has risen in value so much, that land would not be let now under 40 *l.* an acre; there is quite a town there, all arising from the mining operations which are carried on there.

976. As far as that district is concerned, the mines are of such a benefit to the proprietor of the surface that he can well afford to pay poor-rates, though he is not connected immediately with mines; is that so?—Yes.

977. Do you think, speaking from your great experience, that that is generally the case in Wales?—I think, as a general rule, that wherever mining operations are instituted, great prosperity follows; that is, if the operations are successful ones.

978. And is it the case that that prosperity so affects the rental as more than to make amends for the losses the landed proprietors may sustain in contributing towards the maintenance of the poor?—Yes; it increases the population and wealth of the district, and the amount paid in wages; it has an astonishing effect upon the prosperity of a district.

979. You say the miners belong to clubs?—Yes.

980. Have they doctors' clubs?—Yes. The men pay so much a month for their doctors; 6 *d.* a month, I think; and in some cases they pay towards the schools, for their own education as well as the doctors. There are some very fine schools established at Mr. Vivian's works; they are not mines, but a manufactory. But in well-conducted works a great deal of attention is paid to the education of the mining population.

981. I understand you to say you do not object to coal mines being rated to the poor?—I think it is a heavy thing upon coal mines; but there it is, it cannot be altered.

982. What is the general charge per ton?—I think that about Aberdare the rating is high; I think it is something like 6 *d.* a ton.

983. That is the royalty?—Yes.

984. Supposing a lessor receives in royalties as much as 1,000 *l.* a year, does he pay on the whole of that amount?—I dare say, in the mines I have mentioned, the royalties run up to 9 *d.* a ton on the coal; the rating all through that district is about 6 *d.* per ton.

985. Suppose a person receives 9 *d.* a ton, or whatever the sum may be, is he charged on the entire amount?—I fancy the quantities are obtained, and then the annual rental is obtained in that way.

986. Suppose a farmer's rental is 500 *l.* a year, you make certain deductions from that, bringing it down probably to 450 *l.*; if a proprietor of mineral property receives 1,000 *l.* a year at 6 *d.* or 9 *d.* a ton, is he rated on the whole of that 1,000 *l.* a year, or has he some deductions allowed to him?—Are you speaking of the lessor or the lessee.

987. The lessor is not rated at all; it is the lessee?—He pays it on the royalty; he pays all the rates.

988. The lessor when he grants a lease stipulates that the lessee shall pay all taxes; is that so?—Yes.

989. Suppose a lessee pays to his lessor 1,000 *l.* a year at 6 *d.* per ton, does he pay to the poor-rates on the whole of that amount, or are there deductions made?—There would be considerable deductions.

990. What deductions?—I was mentioning, I think, that the royalties go up to 8 *d.*

8 *d.* or 9 *d.* a ton in the Aberdare district; they are rated at 6 *d.* a ton, and not at 9 *d.*, and there is a deduction off that perhaps to the extent of 15 per cent., or something of that kind, I think.

991. Is it not the fact that, taking it altogether, the lessees do not pay on much more than half the sum they pay to the lessor for their royalty?—It is more than half the sum.

992. A little more?—Yes; perhaps it would be about five or six eighths.

993. It varies in different districts?—Yes, it would vary according to the value of the coal; coals are not all of the same value.

994. Are there frequent disputes with the assessors of rates, when they make their returns?—Yes, there are some regular fights about it, sometimes.

995. And then they go before the petty sessions?—Yes.

996. Taking the average throughout South Wales, what proportion of the royalty do you think is really assessed: is it more than half?—I do not think I could answer that question very well; there are a great many coals which are of an inferior quality, and they would be less than I have mentioned.

997. Upon inferior coal you would pay an inferior royalty, would you not?—Not always; it depends; there is no doubt that the royalties are rather too high.

998. Do I understand you to say that there is an annual fight upon the subject?—Not exactly an annual fight, but sometimes it is a very troublesome question to settle; the farmers try to get up the ratings of the collieries, and they have it a good deal in their own hands; at last the colliery proprietor tries to resist it and appeals.

999. You come to a private arrangement sometimes, do you not?—Yes.

1000. Would it not be very desirable to have something like a definite moderate arrangement?—Yes, perhaps it might.

1001. With regard to the farmers in your neighbourhood who are rated, what allowance is made to them out of the rental?—I think I could mention many cases in which the farmers are very much underrated; that is to say, they are not rated to anything like the rent they pay, and there are deductions made from that again.

1002. Is it not the case that in some districts the farmers take a large per-centage off the rent of their farms, and that a large per-centage is taken off the royalties to meet it?—Yes, I think they are all alike in that respect; they all try to keep their rates down as much as possible; if it gets too low, professional men are employed to rate the whole county or the whole parish.

1003. Is the mode of rating both farms and coal mines very different in different places?—Yes, I dare say there would be a very considerable difference; at all events apparently; but if the matter were gone into, probably it would be found that there is a reason for it; there is an apparent difference, but I do not know whether it would constitute a real difference, for I think it ought always to have reference to the value of the article, and there is a great deal of difference in the value of coals in South Wales.

1004. If you fancy that the lord has got too much, you think you ought to make a fight to have it rated to the poor?—Yes, and do it too.

1005. If then the lord is very hard with his royalties, the other ratepayers in the parish become the sufferers?—He makes as good a bargain as he can.

1006. And you make a fight to have the royalty reduced?—The lessee, of course, tries to work his coal as cheaply as he can.

1007. And to get off the payment of as much rates as he can?—Yes. I suppose he does.

1008. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Does the royalty that is taken on the iron ore vary in different mines according to the facility with which it is got?—It does vary; I know some mines higher than 6 *d.*; 6 *d.* a ton is not an uncommon royalty; perhaps in some cases it is 9 *d.* a ton.

1009. When the royalty is once settled the lord receives it, does he not, whether the lessee is working the mine to a profit or not?—Yes; the lessee would have power to determine his lease if he found it unprofitable to carry it on; it is usual in leases to have power to determine the lease on giving the landlord notice; the landlord would not make enquiry whether his tenant was working to a profit or not.

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1010. The tenant would have power to determine the lease if he found it unprofitable to carry on the works?—Yes.

1011. Is iron ore brought down a considerable distance from the iron mines to the furnaces?—No, generally the furnaces are built as near to the works as is convenient on the royalty ground.

1012. Then there is not much traffic on the highway from the mines?—No, they make railroads from the mine to the furnaces.

1013. Have you heard of many complaints being made of the roads being worn by traffic from the mine?—I do not think it would affect that question much, except as creating an increased traffic in the district; these works are obliged to pay a highway-rate as well.

1014. Are the royalties rated?—No, not the royalties.

1015. Only the works themselves?—Only the works themselves; everything is rated except that there is not a rate on the iron mine; the manufactory is rated, and everything that can be rated is rated; all the collieries are rated, the railroad is subject to be rated, the engine-house is subject to be rated.

1016. But the lords who receive these royalties are not rated to the highway-rates?—In no case are the lords rated for the royalties they receive either in respect of coal mines or others; it is the lessee.

1017. Colonel *Pennant.*] You have spoken of mines in which coal and ironstone were worked and brought up by the same shafts?—I have.

1018. How are those mines let; is the coal in that mine let separately from the iron?—Quite; they pay distinct royalties.

1019. Then there would be no difficulty, of course, in ascertaining the royalty separately paid upon each of those?—None whatever.

1020. Are the furnaces at which the ironstone is smelted the property of the lessees of the mines, or are they the property of the owners?—They are the property of the lessees; at least the lessees build the furnaces. Perhaps you are aware that anything planted in the ground becomes the property of the landlord after the place is abandoned; it is not moveable plant.

1021. But as far as the rating goes, the lessee is the person who pays the rate on the furnace?—Yes.

1022. That rate is quite distinct from the royalty?—Yes.

1023. The benefit of the mines to the surrounding district, in the way of giving an increased value to land for building purposes, with reference to the consumption of agricultural produce, are equally received by districts surrounding a coal mine as well as any other mine?—Yes.

1024. Therefore all that is applicable in that respect to an iron mine would be equally applicable in the case of a coal mine?—Yes, I imagine so.

1025. There would be no difference in that respect?—No.

1026. With regard to the question of the expense of getting and raising this iron ore, which you said was increasing in some mines, would not that affect also the rate upon that, through the operation of the royalty; the royalty paid to the owner would of course be diminished, would it not?—It would have that tendency in some degree, no doubt; but after large works have been established lessees are very reluctant, of course, to give up the prosecution of the mine, and great efforts are made to go on working it.

1027. But in any future lease the increased difficulty of raising it would be taken into consideration in settling the royalty to be paid by the lessee, would it not?—I suppose it would be correct to infer that.

1028. And the rate would be diminished in consequence of that reduced royalty, I suppose?—That would be the tendency, no doubt.

1029. With regard to the benefit which the surrounding district receives from an increased population dependent upon any mining work, suppose union rating was at any time to be adopted, would not that alter the case; supposing parishes were brought into the same common fund, which did not immediately benefit by, and were not in the immediate neighbourhood of the mine. You are aware that at present the rating is parochial, and it is only for the purposes of the union establishment that the parishes are rated out of the same common fund, and then only in proportion to the number of their poor: but supposing union rating were adopted altogether, the case would be altered, would it not, with regard to the benefit which the parishes immediately surrounding the mine would derive from it?—I do not understand the question.

1030. The

1030. The equivalent which the surrounding parishes are said to receive now would be altered if union rating were adopted; distant parishes would then be brought into the liability to maintain the poor discharged or broken-down miner, which parishes would not benefit by being in the immediate neighbourhood of that mine?—Yes.

1031. Mr. *Philipps.*] Do you remember the districts with which you are best acquainted before the introduction of railways into them?—Yes; Wales has recently had railways introduced into it; that is a case in point.

1032. Has there been much increase in the general prosperity of the mining districts since the introduction of railways?—Very much so, inasmuch as it has increased the developement of minerals.

1033. Railways are rated to the poor, are they not?—Yes, they are rated to the poor.

1034. Can you give me the average value of the poor-rate in any particular parish with which you are connected; take any parish that you are best acquainted with?—They would run from 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* in the pound, I think; I know that in our parish it has run as high as 5 *s.* in the pound.

1035. Mr. *Colvile.*] Will you explain to the Committee how the rate on coal is levied; you say it is by the ton; is the amount which is raised by dialling, or by the weight at the pit's mouth?—By the weight at the pit's mouth; the royalty for the landlord is ascertained in that way in almost all cases.

1036. Have you heard in the district in which you reside, of any complaint on the part of the landowners and occupiers, with regard to the mines not being rated, when they have been rated themselves?—No, I have not; I do not think I have.

1037. Do you believe that they are perfectly satisfied with the system which now exists?—I think so in South Wales.

1038. *Chairman.*] I think you say that things are in such a prosperous state in mining districts generally, that you do not think that rating the produce of the mines moderately will cause the abandonment of any works?—I do not think I could say it would; I think that when one's capital is laid out, tremendous struggles are made before works are abandoned.

1039. But it would be a very serious loss and discouragement?—Yes, I dare say that the rating of mines in the case of moderate works would come to probably 200*l.* or 300*l.* a year.

1040. Have you ever given your attention to what is called the corpus question, that is, making a difference between rating property which is always producing, like a farm, and the rating mining property, where part of the property itself is absorbed every year?—I have not given much attention to that subject, but I think that the rating of mines is a very questionable principle, because, of course, as you take coal out you are carrying off part of the fee of the estate. I regard it very much as a sort of commercial transaction, that of taking the coal out; it may be compared almost to taking coal out of a ship; it is merely raising it out, and there is an end of it.

1041. Mr. *Williams.*] You say it would be detrimental to the ironworks to be taxed to the poor-rate; are not the poor from the iron mines chargeable to the poor-rate?—Yes, they are.

1042. And for what reason should the proprietors of the mine be excluded from maintaining a portion of their own poor?—Is it just or reasonable, in your opinion, that other interests than those of the proprietors of the iron mines should pay for the maintenance of the poor from those mines?—I have already stated some matters with reference to that question. I have said that the mine is, in my opinion, indirectly rated; the furnaces are rated which contain the mine, and it must be contended, I think, that the operation of working the mine is scarcely completed until it is brought into a state of iron.

Martis, 16° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Michael Williams.
Mr. G. H. Cavendish.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Hussey Vivian.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Child.
Mr. W. O. Foster.	

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

John William James, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. W. James, Esq.

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1043. Mr. *Vivian.*] I BELIEVE you are largely interested in collieries and iron mines in the Swansea Valley?—I am.

1044. As to two of those mines, I think you are not only interested as lessor but also as lessee?—Yes, I am part owner of those particular mines.

1045. In those mines the coal and ironstone occur together, do they not?—They do; almost every vein of coal is accompanied by veins of ironstone lying close above.

1046. So that you work both coal and ironstone from the same shafts?—Yes.

1047. Do you sell that ironstone, or do you convert it yourself?—We sell the ironstone to ironworks in the neighbourhood.

1048. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee what your opinions are with reference to the advisability of rating the ironstone which is raised generally in Wales?—My opinion is that the effect of it would be to impose a very considerable additional burden upon the proprietors of coal mines. We look upon the rating of coals at present as an unjust burden; that is a matter which has been over and over again fought in our county; we consider that coal ought not to be rated in the way in which it is rated.

1049. You think that the outlay which has been made, and which continues still to be made, in developing those mines, is already sufficiently rated?—Quite so.

1050. In respect of the coal raised?—Yes, in respect of the coal raised.

1051. You think that to impose a tax upon iron mine raised from the same mines would be to add to a burden which you already feel to be excessive?—Just so. That is my opinion, certainly.

1052. Do you conceive that the rates which are paid in respect of those mines are a full equivalent for the position which they occupy in the industry of that part of the country?—I think so, certainly.

1053. You think that the mine is already sufficiently highly rated?—I think it is more than sufficiently highly rated; if you compare the rates which a colliery pays with the rates paid in respect of any large manufactory in the county of Glamorgan, it will be found that the collieries pay very largely in proportion to the capital employed in the works.

1054. If, therefore, it were considered by the Legislature to be desirable to rate iron mines separately, your opinion would be that the rating of coal should be *pro tanto* diminished?—I certainly should think so.

1055. With regard to the cost of getting Welsh mine, can you state to the Committee whether it is generally remunerative throughout the county of Glamorgan?—In our particular district we have only very recently had ironworks established, and the ironstone with us is obtained at a comparatively cheap rate; but at the large ironworks in the neighbourhood of Merthyr, where they have been working ironstone for many years, the ironstone has become very expensive indeed to work; they are obliged to import large quantities of iron ore, and if any additional burdens are imposed upon them, it is very possible they may give up working the ironstone altogether and import it.

1056. You

1056. You know the district of Merthyr very well?—Yes, I am intimately connected with it; I was born there, and have lived there for many years.

1057. Is the production of Welsh mine increasing in Wales, or is it decreasing?—I believe it is decreasing.

1058. Are you speaking of Wales generally?—South Wales.

1059. Is that owing to the cost of production?—Yes; the ironstones that were easily got out by open working have been pretty well exhausted, and now they are obliged to work ironstones which are got much more expensively.

1060. Is the iron which is produced from the Welsh mines of a superior quality, or the reverse?—I believe it is considered to be of very good quality; the best quality I believe.

1061. As a mixture, it is especially valuable I believe?—Yes, especially valuable.

1062. Have you formed any idea as to the amount of extra charge upon mines which the imposition of poor-rates would probably occasion?—Of course that depends very much upon the quantity of coals that are raised, and the state of prosperity of the district; we have paid in our district sometimes as much as 4 *s.* in the pound in the year; if we had to pay that upon our ironstone it would be equivalent to something like 2 *d.* a ton on the ironstone; we consider that the royalty is from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.*: and if we had to pay 2 *d.* a ton additional, it would be very severely felt.

1063. The royalty is from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.*?—We pay 7 *d.*, but you may take the district generally at from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.*

1064. In your capacity of lessor and lessee, have you frequently had to negotiate leases?—I have occasionally.

1065. Should you consider that an additional royalty of 2 *d.* a ton would be sufficient, in many cases, to cause the negotiation for a lease to come to an end?—I cannot say it would be sufficient to cause the negotiation for a lease to come to an end, but of course it would form a very important item in the calculations of the lessor.

1066. Mr. *Spooner.*] And of the lessee also?—Yes, of the lessee also: he would have to go to the ironworks, and see if he could get a proportionate increase for his ironstone.

1067. Mr. *Vivian.*] Supposing you were in negotiation for a lease, and that instead of the maximum royalty ordinarily charged in the district the landlord proposed to charge you 2 *d.* extra, would you not conceive that to be a very grievous requisition on his part, and would it not, in all probability, give rise to your abandoning the negotiation?—Very possibly; we bargain for halfpennies in the royalties, and of course 2 *d.* would be a very serious matter.

1068. Can you state to the Committee whether the poor-rates in the mining districts of South Wales are more or less than they are in the agricultural districts?—I cannot give the Committee any positive information upon that subject. In a parish adjoining to that in which our mines are situated there are no mines at all; at least, there is only one which has been very recently opened, and there the poor-rates are very much the same as they are in our own parish; there is no great difference one way or the other.

1069. Do many of your workmen reside in that adjoining parish?—Yes, many of them.

1070. Do you consider, generally speaking, that the establishment of mines in a district is calculated to add to the rates in that district, or the reverse?—I think the reverse; I think the landed interest is relieved by the working of the mines, because the mines pay so large a proportion of the poor-rates.

1071. That is the coal mines?—Yes.

1072. But we will take the case of an iron mine separately; do you consider that the establishment of an iron mine in a district would be likely to add to the poor-rates in that district or not?—I should imagine not; they add to the general prosperity of the district, and by so much they would be conducive to a reduction of the poor-rates.

1073. The establishment of a mine in a district affords large employment for labour, does it not?—Yes; it affords large employment for labour; it affords employment for the horses of the small farmers around, and altogether it adds to the prosperity of the immediate district.

1074. And is the rateable value of the property in the district largely increased?—Yes; cottages are built, all of which become rateable to the poor.

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1075. It has been alleged that in some cases it is a hardship on the workmen who build their own cottages to be rated to the poor; has it ever come within your knowledge that a workman has complained of being rated to the poor?—No, I believe not; they complain of all payments, but I do not think they complain of that in particular.

1076. As a whole, do you consider that the employment which is afforded to the population of a district, and the increase which is caused to the rateable value of property in that district, is more than equivalent for any poor who may be thrown upon the parish in excess by reason of the establishment of the mine?—I do not go quite so far as that. I think that iron mines should bear some proportion of the poor-rates if they are worked alone; but I think that there is great injustice in the way in which the rate is at present levied upon the coal; and if the same system is adopted with regard to other mines, I think it would be continuing that injustice. I think, however, that they should pay some proportion of the rate.

1077. Then your view, I understand, is this; that inasmuch as in South Wales the ironstone and coal occur together, and are worked by the same pits and levels and by the same outlay, that outlay should not be doubly taxed?—Exactly. In one of the collieries which we work we produce two tons of ironstone to one ton of coal; so that, as far as that particular working is concerned, it would be trebly taxing the colliery. We pay on one ton of coal now, and we should then have to pay upon two tons of ironstone in addition.

1078. And the return upon your outlay would remain the same?—Yes.

1079. Supposing the receiver of the royalty, the lessor, were to be taxed, what would be your opinion as to the advisability of such a measure as that?—I do not consider that that alters the position of the case much; I think that the landlord would then endeavour to put it on to the royalty when he was making his bargain. I think that you would only be shifting the payment and the injustice from one shoulder to another.

1080. I believe that in many parts of South Wales 6*d.* is a very customary royalty for ironstone, is it not?—I think that must be where there are old leases; I think that in modern leases it generally goes up to 8*d.*, 9*d.*, and 1*s.* for ironstone, and 6*d.* for coal.

1081. So that a tax of 2*d.* a ton, deducted from the landlord's royalty, would probably be considered a very serious tax by the landlord?—No doubt.

1082. In the case of the Dowlais lease, have you not heard that, in order to give encouragement to the working of Welsh mines, the royalty upon ironstone was placed extremely low as compared to the royalty on coal?—I do not know that fact; I cannot speak to it.

1083. I gather generally that your feeling is, that where ironstone and coal occur together, and where they are worked by means of the same pits or levels, they should not be taxed separately, but jointly?—Exactly. I do not know whether I may mention to the Committee a further opinion I have. I do not know whether it comes within their province, but I would state that I do not consider that we rent the coal at all. I consider that we purchase the coal from the landlord.

1084. As regards the exhaustion of the corpus of the estate, have you turned your attention to that subject?—Yes; that was the point which I wished to allude to.

1085. What is your opinion upon that subject?—My opinion is, that we buy a ton of coal from the landlord under ground, and that we pay him 6*d.* or 7*d.* for that ton of coal, which is never seen again by the landlord or by anybody else after we have raised and sold it; it is as much a purchase of coal at 6*d.* under ground as it is a sale by me when I have worked it, and when I take it to the ironworks and sell it for 6*s.* a ton, or some such price. I have my bargain with the ironworks running over a certain number of years, at a fixed price, just as I have a bargain with the landlord under ground.

1086. In point of fact, an estate gradually decreases in value as the coal is worked out?—Exactly.

1087. And the same as regards the ironstone?—Yes, the same as regards the ironstone; in the end it becomes entirely exhausted.

1088. There is a wide difference between a description of property which is constantly

constantly reproductive, and a description of property which is constantly being exhausted?—Exactly.

1089. *Chairman.*] What is the name of the immediate district of which you have been speaking?—It is near the head of the Swansea Valley, called Cwm Llynfell.

1090. Is that all in one parish?—That is all in one parish.

1091. Do you at all know the rateable value of the property in that parish?—No, I do not.

1092. What proportion of the rate should you say is paid by the agriculturists, and what proportion by the coal proprietors?—The parish is divided into four hamlets, and in the one hamlet nine-tenths are paid by the manufacturers of iron and the workers of coal; in another hamlet nearly the whole would be paid by the agriculturists; and in the other two hamlets I should think that the agriculturists would pay the largest proportion.

1093. Then if nine-tenths are paid by the proprietors of coal in one hamlet, if nearly the whole are paid by the agriculturists in another hamlet, and if in the other two hamlets the payments are pretty nearly divided, the larger proportion of course must be paid by the agriculturists?—I should think so.

1094. The whole amount is about 4 *s.* in the pound, is it not?—It has been; it is not as much as that now; 4 *s.* was a high rating.

1095. At present you, as a coal proprietor, only pay upon coal?—We only pay upon coal.

1096. If you were to pay upon iron, of course the coal would not have to pay so much?—No; the coal would not have to pay so much, as the rate of the whole district would be reduced.

1097. It has been assumed that you would have to pay 2 *d.* in the pound, and your royalty is 7 *d.*; 2 *d.* in the pound of itself would amount to 5 *s.* 8 *d.*, would it not?—No, not 2 *d.* in the pound; 2 *d.* a ton on the ironstone; not 2 *d.* in the pound.

1098. That is 2 *d.* out of 7 *d.*, the royalty?—Yes, 2 *d.* out of 7 *d.*, the royalty.

1099. That would be 5 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound, would it not; if 7 *d.* is the royalty, and that royalty is assessed at 2 *d.*, that royalty would be assessed at 5 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound, would it not?—No, I think not; 7 *d.* a ton is the royalty we now pay; that amounts to a certain sum a year; upon that I say we pay 4 *s.* in the pound; if you add 2 *d.* to the 7 *d.*, the effect will be, to convert the 4 *s.* into 5 *s.* 4 *d.*

1100. If you assume that the royalty on the ironstone would be 7 *d.* a ton, and if you assume also an increase of 2 *d.* per ton, it would be 5 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound upon the royalty, would it not?—Do you mean it would increase the 4 *s.* to 5 *s.* 8 *d.*? It would do that.

1101. You assume it possible that if the ironstone were rated on its royalty, it would be rated at 2 *d.* per ton additional?—If the ironstone were rated on its royalty it would be equal to an addition of 2 *d.* per ton on it.

1102. If the royalty upon ironstone were rated, it probably would be rated at 2 *d.* in the pound, and that would be so excessive as to make it a great burden; is that what you mean to say?—What I intended to convey was, that when ironstone was rated at 10 *d.*, if the poor-rates were 4 *s.* in the pound, it would be equal to 2 *d.* a ton additional upon the ironstone; we got back from 10 *d.* to the 7 *d.*, because I was asked what we paid in our particular locality; 2 *d.* on the 7 *d.* would make it equal no doubt to 5 *s.* 8 *d.*

1103. But afterwards you assumed that the royalty upon ironstone would be 2 *d.* in the pound; I want to show first, that if iron is rated at what you pay in your neighbourhood, 7 *d.* in the pound, and if you charge that royalty with the extra 2 *d.*, it would amount to an amount of poor-rate which you do not pay?—No doubt; my assumption was upon the 10 *d.*; upon the 7 *d.* it would be so.

1104. What is the relative value of ironstone and coal?—The ironstone and coal at present as sold by us are in the proportion of 6 *s.* to 11 *s.*; we get 6 *s.* for coal, and 11 *s.* for ironstone.

1105. At present, as I understand, where you get one ton of coal you get two tons of ironstone?—That is in one particular working.

1106. What is the ironstone worth?—The ironstone is worth in the proportion of 1 *s.* to 6 *s.*; that I should mention is a very exceptional case.

1107. What is the comparative expense of raising the two?—The difference

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in the expense of raising the two is certainly much greater than the difference in the cost; it is much more expensive to raise the ironstone than it is to raise the coal.

1108. What per ton is the expense of raising the iron?—It is very difficult for me to divide it, for all the expenses apply to the two articles; the coal and ironstone are worked together; all our main openings are upon the two articles; all our general expenses of timbering, and so on, apply to both, so that I could hardly divide them.

1109. Could you raise one without the other?—They are raised, but not by me.

1110. But could you raise one without the other, if you desired to do so?—Yes; but that would occasion a considerably greater expense; the ironstone would cost much more, if raised by itself, than it costs where it is raised in conjunction with the coal.

1111. You talked of open working just now; have you any open working at this time?—Yes.

1112. Is that rated?—Yes.

1113. The ironstone?—Yes, that is rated.

1114. Can you tell me upon what principle it is that the open working should be rated when the close working is not?—No, I cannot; I cannot tell why many things are not rated to the poor, which are not rated in point of fact.

1115. That you confess is an anomaly?—Yes, it is a great anomaly.

1116. And it would be desirable, if possible, to do away with it, would it not?—Certainly, if you do away with all the anomalies; not the ironstone anomaly only.

1117. In your immediate workings do you pay for what you are getting by means of open working now?—No, I myself do not work any open working; I never have myself worked open working, but there is plenty of open working in the immediate neighbourhood.

1118. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee what constitutes close working; where do you draw the line?—Close working is a working in which there is a covering of earth; in what we call an open working, or patch-work, as it is called, in our neighbourhood, the whole of the side of the hill is cut down, and what is worth nothing is wheeled on one side, and what is worth something is kept on the other; in close working we go underground.

1119. Suppose you have a quarry (and an open working is nothing more than that), do you call it close working the moment you get out of the perpendicular of the quarry; suppose you have a quarry, when you once get out of the perpendicular, and get under the hill, is that close working or not?—According to my experience of ironstone working, you could not work beyond the perpendicular in a large working like an open working; you must then get into what we call a level working, which runs into the hill, a narrow opening with a covering.

1120. Have you any disputes between yourselves and the assessors as to what is a mine and what is a quarry?—No; such a dispute could not arise in our district.

1121. In your immediate neighbourhood do the royalties per ton on the ironstone in quarries vary?—The ironstone is taken in our district by a large capitalist, and he may work some by quarries and some by underground work; but the royalty is the same upon both. The royalty upon the ironstone is the same, whichever way he works it.

1122. How long have these mines been working in your neighbourhood?—As ironstone workings, from about 15 to 20 years.

1123. And how long as coal workings?—As coal workings, from 50 to 60 years.

1124. You spoke just now of the burdens being excessive; has it been a losing concern at any time?—Many of the concerns in the neighbourhood have been losing concerns.

1125. I am speaking of this concern?—It has not been a very profitable one.

1126. With regard to rating, as far as coal goes, what is the principle upon which the rating takes place?—We make a return to the assessor, or poor-rate collector, of the number of tons of coal we have worked during the last half-year.

1127. That

1127. That is a return of the number of tons of coal on which you have paid the royalty?—Yes, on which we have paid the royalty.

1128. Does he rate that royalty in full, or not?—He makes a deduction of 15 per cent., I believe, in our parish on the amount; on what ground that deduction is made, I do not know.

1129. If you pay 7 *d.*, he charges 7 *d.*?—Yes.

1130. And then he makes a deduction of 15 per cent.?—Yes; 20 per cent. on cottages, and something else on land; I do not know on what principle he proceeds; that is a deduction from the rack-rent.

1131. Have you any railway in your neighbourhood?—We have a private railway from the colliery, about three miles long, which runs down to a canal.

1132. Is your railway rated?—It is rated to a very small amount; it is three miles long, and we have a mile of it which is rated at 20 *l.* a year.

1133. It runs to a canal?—Yes.

1134. Is that canal rated?—I believe so.

1135. Is it of much use to you?—Yes, it is of great use to us; but the canal is rated only on the agricultural value of the land.

1136. But it is useful to you?—Yes.

1137. And it aids you in the transit of your goods?—Yes; that is our only means of getting to the port.

1138. That canal, you say, is rated?—Yes.

1139. Although it benefits you?—Although it benefits us; but it benefits the shareholders much more than it does us.

1140. If that canal is rated, though it benefits you, upon what ground should iron be exempt?—The canal is not rated according to its profits.

1141. We are not talking of profits at all?—The canal is not rated on its profits, but according to the agricultural value of the land on which the canal is made; we should be quite satisfied to have our colliery rated according to the agricultural value of the land on which it is established.

1142. Is the land in your neighbourhood of great value?—It is very poor land.

1143. Is it much enhanced in value in consequence of its proximity to the mines?—Yes; some of the land certainly is; some of the land in the immediate neighbourhood has been very much enhanced in value indeed.

1144. Are they large or small farmers in your neighbourhood?—Very small.

1145. In the hamlet of which you are speaking are they small farmers?—Yes.

1146. Do they depend mainly upon you as colliers or ironworkers for their support?—No, not mainly.

1147. What is the market for their produce?—A town about seven or eight miles distant, where they take their butter and cheese; oats, which they chiefly grow, would be sold to the collieries in the neighbourhood, and so would the straw.

1148. Is it, or is it not, hard upon them, in your opinion, that they should have to maintain at least half of your poor, because amongst the paupers there are, I suppose, more miners than there are agriculturists?—Certainly; that is not the case with us.

1149. Do you mean to say that your colliers, as a class, are more healthful than the agriculturists as a class, and that they are less liable to accident as a class?—No, I do not say that they are less liable to accident, certainly not; but our colliers, as a class, save money, and in their old age they do not become burthens upon the parish, as agricultural labourers do.

1150. Their wages are better, are they not?—Yes, their wages are much better.

1151. In regard to clubs, do you take care of them in that way?—They generally belong to clubs.

1152. Do you, as proprietors, assist them in those clubs?—No, except as to the doctor's fund; that is invariably kept up.

1153. Are your miners very liable to accident?—Not to explosions of fire-damp; they are very rare.

1154. In case of accident, ill-health, and so on, a miner must at once fall back upon the parish if he has not money, must he not?—No, upon his club.

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1155. But that club is entirely independent of you, is it not, as proprietors?—Quite so, in the way of actual payment to them.

1156. Are the clubs of such a nature that a man and his family can be maintained by them in case of his becoming entirely disabled?—No, not if he is disabled entirely; only in cases of temporary sickness.

1157. Then he must fall back upon the parish?—Yes, then he must fall back upon the parish.

1158. It being, then, as much an agricultural parish as a mining parish, the agriculturists at least pay half, do they not?—Yes, I think they do.

1159. For getting rid of their produce, they do not depend upon the mines at all, do they?—Not as to the whole of it; we use in our district a much larger quantity of produce than is produced by the farmers of the district.

1160. But the farmers still do not depend upon you for its consumption?—No, they take it to a market town.

1161. What equivalent have they from you as mining proprietors to make up for their payment towards the maintenance of your poor, they having nothing to do with the strength and sinews of these men when young and able-bodied?—The value of their produce is very considerably increased by our large consumption.

1162. Are articles of consumption in these hamlets higher than they are in other places?—Much higher than they are in the districts of Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire, within 40 and 50 miles; in fact, they are brought from that neighbourhood to us; butter and cheese come from their neighbourhood to us.

1163. What wages does a common miner get?—His wages average from 22*s.* to 24*s.* a week. At present wages are very high; they are all paid by the ton; they work by piecework.

1164. As a body, are they provident or not?—Yes, I think, generally speaking, they are provident. They save a little money, with which they build cottages; many a miner builds his own cottage out of his savings in course of time.

1165. You say they sometimes complain, as other persons are very apt to do when they have anything to pay; but have you heard them complain that the moment they make a little money, and lay it out in building a cottage, they are at once assessed to the poor?—Yes; I remember that once there was a great commotion in the parish when the cottages of the miners were first rated; that was seven or eight years ago; at that time there was great excitement amongst the poor people upon the subject.

1166. What argument did they use?—That they were too poor to pay.

1167. They did not at all complain that you were not rated as iron proprietors?—No, certainly not.

1168. Perhaps they would not quite understand that?—No, I do not think they would.

1169. You were asked about the corpus question just now; suppose that matter were well considered, and that, in order to prevent all difficulties, and to get rid of the anomalies of open quarries and close workings and so on, due consideration were given to the corpus question, and that there were to be a rating of the more valuable article in your district, the ironstone, and the less valuable article; the coal, both being taken as one whole, do you think that such a proposition would be generally well received?—I think it would depend very considerably upon the amount of consideration given to the destruction of the corpus of the estate; it depends very much upon that. I do not confine myself to the anomalies only of the ironstone and coal; many instances have come under my notice of things not rated which I think ought to be rated just as much as coal or ironstone; but if any alteration is to be made at all, I should like all anomalies to be removed. Where we are rated highly, it affects us as regards the county rates, as well as with regard to the parish rates; so also as to church rates and highways, all of which are copied from the poor-rates.

1170. With regard to highway rates, how do you pay them now?—We pay them very heavily. I had a claim last week of 10*d.* in the pound for highway rates.

1171. And that is paid on the royalty?—Yes, that is paid on the royalty; they copy the poor-rate assessment in our district for all those other rates.

1172. That

1172. That is, subject to a deduction, the same as the other?—I believe they copy exactly the poor-rate book.

1173. What is the deduction that is made in your neighbourhood from the actual rental?—Fifteen per cent.

1174. I am speaking of the rental of the land?—I think the deduction on land is one-fourth, or 25 per cent. They are rated up to the rack-rent, and then there is a deduction of 25 per cent., I think, in our parish; but there seems to be no general system in our district: one parish does one thing, and another another.

1175. When the leases are newly granted in your neighbourhood, is any provision made by the lessor, that in case the royalties should be assessed to the poor, that assessment should fall upon the lessee?—The lessee in our neighbourhood always binds himself to pay all rates and taxes, except the property and income tax.

1176. Suppose it should be made the law of the land that mines should be rated, would the whole of that assessment fall upon the lessee?—I should say so.

1177. Would that be so according to your present leases?—Yes. When we took our present colliery, we were rated at 100 *l.* per year; that was merely for the value of the pit and the engine. There was then a stir made in the parish, and we had a new valuation, and we were then put up to 700*l.* or 800 *l.* a year. We could not go back on our landlord for that, because it was the law of the land.

1178. Did you resist the demand which was made upon you in any way?—Yes, we did. We appealed against it, but of course we were beaten.

1179. Is the plant rated in any way?—No, not now; the rate is only upon the royalty; everything is included in that royalty, except the railway, the office, the counting-house, a small cottage for myself, and so on: they are all rated distinctly.

1180. Do things go on quietly with regard to rating in your neighbourhood, or is there an annual struggle?—They go on quietly; there was a struggle when there was a new valuation; but we go on very quietly now.

1181. Mr. *Williams.*] You said just now that it is a grievous burden to rate the royalty upon coals: and that if the ironstone were rated, the grievance would be increased; do you not think that, supposing the burden of supporting the poor who are employed in working iron mines were thrown on the agriculturists, that would be unjustly increasing the burdens of the agriculturist?—Most certainly it would.

1182. It would increase the burden of the agriculturists?—Yes.

1183. Is there any reason why the agriculturists should maintain the poor who become chargeable to the parish by reason of the working of the mines?—No.

1184. Would it not be a manifest injustice to place upon the agriculturists the burden of maintaining those poor?—Yes.

1185. Are the cottages rated to the poor?—Yes.

1186. All the cottages?—All our cottages are rated.

1187. Are the profits upon your coal mines and iron mines rated to the poor?—No.

1188. What proportion do the poor population of that part of the parish in which your iron mines are situated, bear to the whole of the poor population of the parish?—Of the two hamlets I have spoken of as having a mining population, about three-fourths are a mining population. I do not know the exact number. I only speak from guess.

1189. Do you, or do you not, conceive that it would be just to the agriculturists to oblige them to maintain the poor, and the widows and orphans of the poor mining population, to the extent of three-fourths of the whole number of paupers?—Yes; but I do not conceive that that would be the result.

1190. Should it be the result, do you not think it would be an injustice?—It would be an injustice; but I should like to qualify that answer. At present the more prosperous we are, and the more people we keep off the parish, the more we pay to the poor-rates; if we were to stop our works to-morrow, and were not to pay one shilling to the poor-rates, then would be the time when our people would come upon the parish. They do not lay by any fund at present to meet the time when our men may be thrown upon the parish.

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1191. Have you ever ascertained the parish value of those hamlets at different periods?—No.

1192. Has the parish value increased or decreased?—I do not know the valuation very well.

1193. How often do they make a new valuation?—As often as anybody raises a commotion in the parish, and says that there ought to be a fresh valuation made; about seven years ago a fresh valuation was made, and the valuation was then very much increased from what it had been previously.

1194. When was the other valuation made?—I do not know; long before my time.

1195. When that property was rated seven years ago, was it increased or decreased in value?—Increased considerably.

1196. When it was rated the other day, was it increased or decreased in value?—We have only valued it once in my time, and that was seven years ago, and then it was increased considerably.

1197. Are the profits on the canal rated to the poor?—I believe not; I always understood that the canal was rated upon the old agricultural value of the land.

1198. Are the profits upon the railway rated?—We have no railway in our parish; there is only a small bit of the Llanelly Railway there.

1199. Do you say that the profits on the iron mines are not rated to the poor?—They are not rated according to the profits.

1200. But only on the royalty?—The royalty on the coal.

1201. Mr. *Foster*.] You have spoken of the anomaly in rating the mineral, which, being a part of the corpus of the estate, is taken away from the freehold; do you wish the Committee to infer that, in your opinion, it would be a more equitable principle of rating, supposing the existing system had not been in operation, to rate the land occupied by buildings and plant, and not the mineral at all, even in the case of coal?—That is a question to which I have not turned my attention; but I should think, speaking generally, that the land occupied by the plant should be valued, and that there should be some mode of rating the minerals. I think you should rate the interest of the money which we pay to the landlord; it might be regarded in the light of a determinable annuity. I think there should be some mode of rating it, but that it should not be rated, as I imagine it now is rated, upon the actual capital, and not upon the rent.

1202. In the event of any converting furnaces being upon the works, those are rated, are they not?—Yes, they are all rated.

1203. They are rated distinctly and separately from the mines?—Yes.

1204. Has it suggested itself to you, looking at the casual nature of mining altogether, that it would have been a more equitable system to have rated the plant and buildings, and the land occupied for the purposes of the colliery, and not the actual produce of the property itself, which is taken away, and which you are of course aware can never be replaced?—I should say so certainly, particularly where, as in most of our large ironworks, they work nearly the whole of their own coal and ironstone, and have very extensive furnaces, rolling mills, and things of that kind, which could be fairly rated and assessed to the poor. I may mention that I know an instance in our neighbourhood, where instead of providing for a royalty, the proprietor sold the whole affair for 40,000 *l.*, to be paid in 10 years; that is not treated as a rent; the person who pays that 4,000 *l.* a year does not pay poor-rates as we do upon the royalty.

1205. That is only one of the many anomalies that will continually present themselves in dealing with the various kinds of mineral property?—Exactly.

1206. You find, do you not, that mines are taken under a variety of tenures, and with a variety of modes of payment?—Yes. I can mention another case in which I am a party: I have taken one colliery and ironstone working, in which I have agreed with the proprietor that I am to work it, and we are to divide the profits; that is to be his royalty. I do not know how that is to be rated.

1207. Any further taxing of mineral property to the poor-rates would be, in your opinion, only adding to the anomalies and difficulties at present existing?—No doubt.

1208. Mr. *Childs*.] Are rents higher or lower in parishes in which mines are situated than they are in the adjoining parishes?—They are rather higher in the manufacturing districts.

1209. The

1209. The land itself being of equal value?—Yes.

1210. You have stated that miners get about 24*s.* a week on the average?—Yes.

1211. What do agricultural labourers get then?—From 14*s.* to 15*s.*; 2*s.* 6*d.* a day is about the ordinary price of agricultural labour. Agricultural labourers can do some work connected with mines; not exactly working under ground, but filling coal above ground, and so on. There are many things connected with a colliery which an ordinary labourer may do.

1212. May it be assumed that a miner gets higher wages than an agricultural labourer?—Certainly.

1213. Are your royalties generally by the ton or by the yard?—By the ton, being 22½ cwts., which is considered a ton.

1214. Mr. *Ridley.*] You have said that on the last valuation of lands in your parish there was an increase in their value?—Yes.

1215. Can you account for that increase in their value at that time?—No; I think it was a good deal owing to the previous valuation having been carelessly made. I do not know when the parish had been valued. I may state that I think that it was also to be attributed to the improved value of the land; the farming was better.

1216. Do the miners in your district often build cottages?—Yes.

1217. They are glad to be able to do so?—Yes; they take a small plot of ground and build a cottage upon it.

1218. Do they take the land upon lease?—Yes, upon lease.

1219. When they build their cottages, for what term of years do they lease the land?—Sometimes for 99 years and sometimes for 70 years; it varies; it depends upon the terms they can make with their landlords.

1220. When those cottages are built, are they rated to the poor?—Yes.

1221. Has there been any very great increase in the number of cottages; have there been many built?—There have been several cottages built in our immediate neighbourhood, and there are several being now built by our own workmen.

1222. And the number of them is increasing?—Yes, it is enormously increasing, near the ironworks.

1223. Therefore every year houses and cottages are built, and become rated to the poor?—Yes.

1224. And that through the instrumentality of the miners?—Yes, and the smelting works connected with the mines.

1225. That is *pro tanto* a reduction upon the amount of the poor-rate that would be otherwise levied upon the rest of the property, is it not?—Yes.

1226. What kind of land did you say it was in the district of which you have been speaking?—Very poor; it is mountain land.

1227. With sheepwalks?—Yes, and of commons containing much boggy land.

1228. Is it land which gives the agriculturist very great occupation during the course of the winter months out of doors?—No; they are very poor farmers in our neighbourhood, and do very little indeed.

1229. During the winter months how do they occupy their horses and carts?—Most small farmers in our neighbourhood keep horses only for the use of the collieries; they have two, three, or four horses, which are used under ground in the collieries; we pay them so much a day for the use of the horses.

1230. And they are employed, I dare say, generally in leading coal or ironstone, or whatever it may be?—Yes, under ground; upon the small railways which run under ground.

1231. Mr. *Cavendish.*] In the case which you mentioned just now, in which 40,000 *l.* had been agreed to be paid upon mineral produce, the payment of that sum to be spread over 10 years, can you see any injustice in rating the property to the amount of 4,000 *l.* a year, when probably a large population will be brought in to work the mine, who will be subject to sickness and accidents, all going to increase the annual expenditure of the parish?—I should see great injustice in it; because if the 40,000 *l.* were paid down nobody would dream of rating it; and because it happens to be spread over 10 years I should consider it would be a great injustice to rate it.

1232. Suppose a man paid 40,000 *l.* for an estate, the person who came into

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the enjoyment of that estate would pay a rate upon the annual income which he derived from that 40,000 *l.*, would he not?—Yes, but he would pay in our district on something like 1,000 *l.* or 1,200 *l.* a year, instead of on 4,000 *l.*

1233. If a great body of people are brought into a parish to work out a mine, why should there be a difference in the rating, whether a great deal is got out in the course of a few years, or a moderate quantity spread over a great number of years?—It appears to me that there would be the same injustice in it as I mentioned before. If when you worked it out you rated it, and laid a portion of the rate by to form a fund against the day when the property was exhausted, I could understand the justice of rating it; but whilst some works are paying on 3,000 *l.* or 4,000 *l.* a year, to lessen the poor-rates at present, in the course of 10 years they may pay nothing.

1234. The parish have the benefit of these rates whilst the property is being worked out?—Yes, the parish have the benefit of it during the time that it is being worked out.

1235. As soon as the produce has been worked out, it ceases to be rated?—Exactly.

1236. Then whatever burdens have been thrown upon the parish fall upon the land afterwards?—Exactly; but you have taken your capital out in the course of that 10 years; it is not a rental all that time; you have merely exhausted the corpus, as it has been called here, and that mining population does not remain there; they go away to an adjoining colliery; they will not remain there.

1237. Does it not sometimes happen, when a mine has been worked out, that the population remains there unemployed?—For a short time; they must do so until they can find work elsewhere, but they never remain in our district for good; they remain there until they can find work elsewhere.

1238. Is there such a demand for labour in your neighbourhood, that the population never remain long unemployed?—There is, particularly of that class of labour, mining labour.

1239. Mr. *Spooner*.] In the case of a farm, the rent is only rent, and is not mixed up with capital?—Exactly.

1240. And rent is that which is assessed to the poor?—Yes.

1241. In the case of a royalty paid for a mine, is not capital mixed up with the rent, and are not the rent and capital both assessed?—Yes.

1242. That is the injustice of which you complain, is it not?—Yes, that is the injustice of which I complain.

1243. You have stated, that in one instance which you have mentioned, 40,000 *l.* was agreed to be given as the purchase-money for a mine, and that the payment of it was to be made by 10 yearly instalments?—Yes.

1244. Is that 40,000 *l.* rated in any way?—I understand not.

1245. You yourself are a partner in a mine in which you have purchased the mine right, have you not?—Yes, the coal; we purchased the freehold of the coal.

1246. In point of fact, you pay no royalty at all?—Yes, I am obliged to pay a royalty for that.

1247. That is assessed, although you pay to yourselves?—Yes, it is assessed the same as the other.

1248. Can you see any reason why that which is to be paid for by an annual payment should be assessed, whilst that which is to be repaid by 10 yearly instalments is not to be assessed?—No, certainly not.

1249. You have stated that there are several things you know of which, in your opinion, ought to be rated as well as coal; can you mention any at the present moment?—I am speaking, of course, of the general anomalies of the poor-rates. I live in Swansea, which is a sea port; shipping is not rated at all. I remember an instance of three ships being lost, which belonged to that port; there were 20 widows and about 50 or 60 children thrown upon the parish at one time. Now, shipping pays nothing whatever.

1250. In point of fact, personal property does not pay?—No, it does not; the Harbour Commission of Swansea, of which I am a commissioner, receives a large sum, amounting to something like 20,000 *l.* a year, from shipping dues; and about 2,000 *l.* from a bridge toll; the bridge toll is rated, but the shipping dues are not rated. I never could understand any reason for that.

1251. You

1251. You say they deduct 15 per cent. from the annual value of your royalty? —Yes.

1252. But still more is deducted from the annual value of the land?—Yes.

1253. Can you see upon what principle that is done?—No.

1254. You do not know what it is, but you are sure it is more than 15 per cent.?—Yes.

1255. *Chairman.*] You have spoken of a purchase for which 40,000 *l.* is to be paid, by instalments, in 10 years?—Yes; I think I should have said 36,000 *l.* in 12 years.

1256. In that case nothing is paid in the way of royalty?—No.

1257. The coal is rated now, is it not?—Yes.

1258. Are they obliged to exhaust the coal within the 10 years?—If they do not go on paying the 36,000 *l.* at the rate of 3,000 *l.* a year, they are to forfeit everything that has been paid.

1259. After having paid that sum of money, is the royalty theirs for ever? —Yes.

1260. They may do what they like as to raising the mineral, so long as they continue to make the payment, may they not?—Yes.

1261. Whatever quantity they raise, they pay nothing for their royalty? —No.

1262. Is not that another anomaly?—Yes. It is unjust that that colliery should not contribute something to the poor-rates.

1263. You are aware, from your great practical knowledge of the subject, that great anomalies and abuses do exist, are you not?—Yes.

1264. And it would be very desirable, would it not, if some mode could be found of adjusting those abuses and anomalies?—Yes.

1265. As I understand, the inference is this; as miners in your district are every year building cottages, which are contributing to the rate, the rateable value of the property in the parish is annually increasing: is that so?—Yes, I should say so.

1266. The parish, as a parish, is increasing in value?—Yes.

1267. What do you think will happen if the mines of which you have been speaking should stop working?—The cottages will become worth nothing.

1268. Would not the parties who are there try to live in them as long as they can, working in another parish, and coming back to their own houses, leaving their families there?—To a certain extent, no doubt that would be the case.

1269. In case the mines should be stopped, would not these cottages be a burden to the parish instead of being of service to it?—There is no doubt of that.

1270. And they would be a burden to the agriculturists?—There is no doubt that that would be so if the mine were to stop, but the agriculturist does not meet that contingency now; if the agriculturist laid aside a portion of this money for a rainy day, I could understand it.

1271. A portion of what money?—Of the rate taken from the miners.

1272. You assume then that the same person who holds a farm now will hold it hereafter, or that he will take care of those who are to come after him in the occupation of the farm?—There is of course that difficulty about it.

1273. Have you ever known the case of a farmer who made it his care to look after the interests of other farmers who were to come after him in the occupation of his farm?—No, not a farmer; but I am speaking of the proprietors of the land.

1274. But the ratepayer is the tenant?—Yes; but I say that in a colliery a ratepayer is not a tenant; he is a purchaser of the coal.

1275. There is a great fluctuation, is there not, in the value of mine?—Yes.

1276. Sometimes there is a great demand for it?—Yes.

1277. And at other times the trade is slack?—Yes; if there is a slackness in the manufactured iron trade, a slackness in the coal and ironstone trade must follow.

1278. Is there a great variation in the number of hands employed in a mine? —No, not very great; when the quantity produced is small, the wages are of course reduced *pro tanto*; we do not turn our hands off much; we work less.

1279. There have been two or three occasions, have there not, during the last 14 or 15 years when there have been very serious fallings off in the demand for

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iron ore, and when you have been obliged to dismiss your men?—Yes, but that has only been when trade has got very bad indeed.

1280. Where do the miners go then?—With us, they go to the steam coal trade, where there is plenty of demand for their labour; that has been the case for several years past.

1281. Have you found that the agriculturists have complained at those times?—No, not in the course of my experience, during the last 15 years.

1282. In your immediate district your iron produces you more money than your coal produces; you raise two to one, do you not?—No. I was speaking with reference to one particular vein; that does not apply to the whole of our workings.

1283. Taking it as a whole, is it half-and-half?—No; our own workings are about two of coal to one of ironstone; but I spoke of one particular vein which would produce two tons of ironstone to one ton of coal.

1284. Taking the profit that arises from the ironstone beds and the coal beds, which is the largest?—The ironstone.

1285. Then that which yields you the most profit at present is not rated, while that which gives you the least profit is rated?—Yes.

1286. Is not that an anomaly?—A very great one.

1287. In point of fact, as far as I can learn, the whole thing from beginning to end is an anomaly?—That is my case; that is the point I make.

1288. Mr. *Child.*] Was the purchase of which you have spoken for which 40,000 *l.* was agreed to be given, a purchase of the freehold?—It was the purchase of a leasehold for a number of years upon an almost nominal royalty; that is what it was.

1289. Then the lease was not determinable at the end of the 10 years?—No; the purchase-money would be paid up at the end of that number of years.

1290. I presume that, in all probability, the mines would not be fully developed at the expiration of 10 years?—Yes; they were mines in work when they were bought.

1291. In the case of new openings, it takes some years, does it not, for mines to be fully developed?—Yes.

1292. If a purchase is made for a term of 50 years of a mine valued at 40,000 *l.*, payable by instalments in 10 years, the mine at the expiration of the 10 years would not be more than just beginning to be in full work, would it?—I think that almost any mine, if sufficient capital were employed upon it, would be got into full operation in the course of two or three years.

1293. It would remain in full work for several years, would it not?—That would depend upon the thickness of the vein of coal.

1294. Supposing rates were paid upon the rent of 4,000 *l.* a year for 10 years, that payment ceasing after the expiration of 10 years, no rates could be levied upon that land?—No.

1295. Although the population might then be chargeable?—Exactly, but no rates now are levied upon that.

1296. I am supposing it to be paid in all cases on royalties, and that rents such as these are assumed to grow up?—But I do not know whether the assessor, after an interval of 10 years, might not say, "Your coal is worth 6*d.* or 9*d.* per ton;" the same as they might say to us when we have a freehold.

1297. Then it would be unfair, would it not, to charge at the same rate before the expiration of the 10 years as afterwards?—It would.

1298. *Chairman.*] You have mentioned a case in which you are yourself concerned, where you are to give the lessor half the profits as a royalty?—Yes.

1299. Would there be any difficulty in assessing that?—There would be no difficulty in assessing it, but there you assess profits.

1300. You might assess it by the quantity raised, might you not?—Yes; but what royalty should be put.

1301. The royalty of the neighbourhood?—There would be no difficulty in it if it were to be the royalty of the neighbourhood, but in our neighbourhood we take the royalty of the actual colliery; in some places 8*d.*, in some 6*d.*, and in some 4*d.*

1302. Mr. *Vivian.*] That would depend, would it not, upon the cost of winning the mine in the particular district?—Yes.

1303. Would you cure the anomalies of which you have spoken by putting a rate on ironstone?—Certainly not; we should be adding to them, I think.

1304. You

1304. You have been asked about the abandonment of a colliery: do you know any instance within your own knowledge of a colliery district, taken as a whole, having been abandoned, and the mining population thrown upon the rates?—No, not of my own knowledge. *J. W. James*, Esq. 16 June 1857.

1305. Is it not the fact, that all the great mining districts of South Wales are in active operation at the present time?—Yes, as they have been for many years.

1306. So that it is a mere assumption to suppose that a colliery district can be, one might almost say, exhausted?—Yes; a particular colliery may be exhausted or may not be profitable, but there are other collieries in the neighbourhood which will absorb the workmen, and frequently in the same parish.

1307. In the case of widows and orphan children, cannot the children very early obtain employment?—Very early; we are limited by law to a certain age, but when they arrive at the age allowed by law, they get employment.

1308. So that, practically speaking, the families of colliers are very rarely thrown upon the parish?—In my experience very rarely, and then only in case of an accident; in case of the death of a collier, of course there is generally great sympathy felt for his family, and the proprietors of works find occupation for the children; they take an interest in them, and get them brought on as colliers.

1309. What you complain of is that coal mines are rated, not that iron mines are not rated?—Yes.

1310. *Chairman.*] As I understand, a coal district exists as a coal district almost for ever?—In South Wales, because it contains such an enormous amount of coal.

1311. One mine may be worked in one parish, and may continue into another, may it not?—It might go from one parish to another; the Aberdare steam coal extends over several parishes.

1312. Is it not the case that a mine which has been worked largely and and profitably in one parish may be worked out, and that the parties who are working a mine may reside in their cottages in a parish in which there is no mine at work, so that the burden of maintaining the mining poor may be thrown on the parish in which there is no mine?—Yes, that is possible.

1313. While the men who are working for the proprietors of a mine are living in a parish in which no mining operations are carried on?—Yes; it is possible, no doubt.

William Llewellin, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1314. Mr. *Vivian.*] YOU are a Mineral Agent resident in South Wales?—Yes, I am. *W. Llewellin*, Esq.

1315. And you are largely consulted, I believe, by both lessors and lessees?—Yes, I am very largely consulted.

1316. You have been concerned for Mr. Hanbury Leigh, of Pontypool, have you not?—Yes, for many years.

1317. He is one of the largest proprietors of minerals in South Wales?—Yes; he is owner of 20,000 acres of valuable mineral property. But I am concerned also for many other large proprietors throughout the district.

1318. I think you have been very constantly consulted by some of the large ironmasters of South Wales?—I have occasionally been consulted by them, but my practice is more generally connected with the management of mining properties on behalf of landlords, though I am very frequently consulted also by the lessees of minerals.

1319. Are the iron ores of South Wales usually worked by the proprietors of iron works?—Almost invariably so; the instances in which they are worked by other parties for the purposes of sale are very few indeed. Mr. James is one of those examples, but there are very few such in the district. I think I may say, that almost invariably the native ores consumed in our district are worked by the ironmasters themselves.

1320. Mr. *Spooner.*] On the spot where they are raised?—On or near the spot.

1321. Mr. *Vivian.*] Are those ironmasters already heavily rated in respect of their erections, machinery, coals, limestone, &c.?—Yes, very heavily rated; in fact,

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fact, in most parishes the rates imposed upon them are very heavy. I think the mineral proprietors pay the largest proportion of the rates in all the parishes I know.

1322. Do you consider, that in rating those erections and that plant, there is taken into account the general business connected with those works, including the consumption of ironstone?—Not the consumption of ironstone, certainly; but at the same time I consider that the amount imposed upon them in the shape of a rate is fully as high an amount as they can possibly bear. The coal is taken into account, and the limestone also, and generally the rent; a rent is imposed upon the furnaces which would be equivalent to the consumption of mineral in them, with an addition also for the plant itself, for the erections, and for the blowing machinery attached to the furnace. Now, in our parish, the rateable value attached to the blast furnaces is 600 *l.* a year for each furnace, and the mills in proportion to the number of fires and the extent of the machinery. We will take the Abersychan iron works for example, the property of the Ebbw Vale Iron Company; they have five furnaces; they are rated at 600 *l.* a year; the furnaces and mills at which the iron produced in those blast furnaces is converted into malleable iron, are taken at 1,350 *l.* a year.

1323. Does 600 *l.* a year represent in any way the capital invested in the furnace, or does it not rather represent the transactions of the furnace?—It represents the transactions of the furnace, I should say.

1324. Then an essential element in the transactions of the furnace is the mine which is produced in that furnace, is it not?—It cannot be said that it is considered; the coal is considered, and the limestone is considered, and the value of the erection also to a certain extent.

1325. Do you consider that the ironmasters in your district pay their full equivalent to the poor-rates?—I consider they do fully; but at the same time I must of course state fairly to the Committee, that we do not take ironstone into account in estimating the rateable value of the furnace, but we take coal into account, and limestone, and the value of the erection itself; but at the same time we consider the blast furnaces are as highly rated as they can possibly bear.

1326. Then it is not the practice to rate coal separately in your district?—It is occasionally done; there are different modes of rating in particular parishes, but I speak of the particular parish in which I myself reside.

1327. In that parish coal is not separately rated, but the blast-furnace in which the coal is used is rated?—Yes; I would say, that I think our ironworks generally are as highly rated as they possibly can bear; I think it would be a great injustice if they were rated higher, by introducing an additional value in respect of the iron ore.

1328. Do you think that the ironmaster is as highly taxed at present as he ought to be, so as to bear his full burden of the rates?—He is rated as highly as he possibly can bear, in my opinion. I know, with regard to operations in the parish in which I myself reside, in connection with ironworks, that they have been most disastrous. An enormous amount of capital has been sunk within the last few years in that parish; I think I may venture to say it has been absolutely sunk; I do not say invested, but lost in ironmaking speculations. In that parish, or at all events, if I include one ironwork which is immediately upon the borders of that parish, and a portion of the mines of which extend into the parish, I should say that as much as a million and a-half has been sunk; I mean the parish of Trevethan, in which the ironworking district around Pontypool is situated.

1329. In that particular district you do not consider that ironmaking has been a profitable speculation?—Certainly not; quite the reverse; I do not know a single ironwork in that parish that has ever paid; not one.

1330. So that it would be a very serious matter to impose an increased burden upon that description of property?—Certainly, and it would be more particularly serious in respect to the native ironstone of the district; with regard to that ironstone, it is now becoming extremely expensive to work, and yet it is all-important to the interests of the district. We are compelled to import largely foreign ores in consequence; that is owing, to a considerable extent, to the great expense of getting the native ore, and to the impossibility of getting a sufficient supply. The ores are becoming deeper, and the ground in which they lie harder, and altogether the expense of getting them is so great as to render it

a great

a great difficulty to work them with any advantage or profit. I know that some firms in our district have even gone so far as to say that the time might come when it would be impossible to work them with any advantage.

1331. Would it be, in your opinion, for the public advantage that the working of native stone should cease in Wales?—I think it would be very disastrous for the district.

1332. State why?—In the first place, it would throw out of employment the large population who are now employed in getting the ironstone which is worked in our district. I am now speaking of the ordinary ironstones associated with coals. In that district, I think, we work altogether about 2,000,000 tons a year; and of course, in working that quantity of ironstone, a very large population is employed, which population would be for a time, no doubt, thrown out of employ, though they would gradually, perhaps, be absorbed by other districts, and obtain other employment.

1333. What is the quality of the iron produced from the native stone?—As to its quality, nothing can be superior, I think; the quality is excellent. The per-centage is low, the ironstone is expensive to get at; it does not often exceed 30 per cent.; that would be the average of the district, that is, of metallic iron.

1334. I understand you to say, that the quality of the iron which is produced from that pure ironstone is extremely good?—Extremely good, undoubtedly.

1335. And it is almost essential, is it not, as a mixture with the hematite and other foreign ores that are imported?—It is most important.

1336. You say it is becoming deeper?—Mr. James was giving you an instance; his evidence had relation to a district which is now comparatively little worked, or in which, in fact, iron-making operations are comparatively recent; that is the anthracite district. I am speaking of the bituminous or great iron-making districts; there the ironstone workings have been so long in operation that the whole of the crop working has been nearly exhausted, and to get a supply they are compelled to sink to great depths; in fact, sometimes they go to the depth of 300 yards below the surface. The consequence is, that the ground becomes harder; the ironstone generally becomes thinner in the ground; and when I tell you that the proportion that we consider an ordinary and fair proportion is to every foot of ground an inch of ironstone, probably you may form some conclusion as to the great expense of getting it: the ironstone lies in thin seams, or small nodular or rounded masses; I think an inch to a foot of ground is a very fair proportion. We take out, for every ton of ironstone, five or six tons of spoil; we have to bring that to the bottom of the pit, to wind it up the pit, and haul it to a place where it can be disposed of, that spoil being perfectly worthless. I think I may safely say there are six tons of spoil to one ton of ironstone.

1337. So that on those accounts the native stone is becoming scarce and expensive in South Wales?—Very much so.

1338. And you entertain a strong opinion that any additional burden imposed upon it would be very detrimental to the interests of the iron trade in South Wales?—That is my impression, for I have known the difficulty of working I speak of, and the pressure on the ironmasters from the great cost of getting the stone.

1339. And if it would be detrimental to the iron trade, would it also act prejudicially upon the agricultural interests of South Wales?—Undoubtedly; there is a large population located in South Wales which derives its entire supplies from the surrounding agricultural district, and consequently the effect would be very serious upon the agricultural population.

1340. Is coal worked in these pits which you speak of?—Coal is associated with those mines; but it is very seldom that we have cases like Mr. James's, where we can work coal and mine together. In his case I know the mine perfectly well, for I happen to be the landlord's agent there; it so happens he has a small seam of coal underlying the ironstone, and it is to his advantage to work that stone in order that he may produce a sort of movement of the ground above, and hence it is he gets that ironstone at a cheap rate; but it entirely arises from the accidental circumstance of that coal underlying the mine at a moderate distance from the mine.

1341. Are ores being now imported largely into South Wales?—Very largely indeed.

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1342. Are those importations confined to England?—I know the Dowlais Company made contracts last year to the extent of about 80,000 tons; and the Ebbw Vale Company I know are importing about 7,000 tons a month into their works at Ebbw Vale.

1343. Are iron ores now imported from foreign countries?—They are imported from Elba to some extent; the Ebbw Vale Company are bringing iron ore from Elba at this moment. The quality of that ore I should say is very superior; but its cost at the works at Ebbw Vale is about 24*s.* a ton.

1344. And its produce?—Probably 60 per cent. as against our 30 per cent.

1345. Having acted on behalf of landlords, has it ever come within your knowledge that negotiations for leases have ceased, or have been rendered very difficult, owing to a penny, or even a halfpenny, a ton being increased upon a royalty?—Yes; I have lost some very fine opportunities from holding out for a penny, which I have had reason to regret.

1346. Then a penny would be considered a very grievous burden?—Very important; it might amount to some hundreds a year upon the output of a large colliery.

1347. And cases have occurred within your own knowledge in which good and responsible tenants have thrown up negotiations owing to the imposition of a penny?—Yes; I have experienced that ill luck, I may say, myself, in many instances.

1348. What is the customary royalty on iron mines?—It varies very much throughout the district. Some of the larger and more successful ironworks in our district, as to the profits of which so much is said, are generally takings of about 80 years ago, and the rents have been merely nominal; but I take it you would ask me as to what royalties properties at the present day pay; they range from 3*d* up to 1*s*. I know that some of them have been recently let as low as 3*d*., while others have been let as high as 1*s*.; it depends very much upon their accessibility, and the position of the parties taking them; they may be, perhaps, very much put to it to get a supply, and in that case they would give as large a galeage as a shilling for that which is very valuable to them, being close adjoining the pits already sunk, and the capital for working which had been already invested.

1349. In the case of the Great Dowlais lease, which was not long since renewed, can you state what the royalty is?—I ought to know it, I had an opportunity of knowing it; but my recollection is not sufficiently clear to enable me to state; my recollection however is, that the galeage in respect of coal is 9*d*., while in ironstone it is 4*d*. I will not pledge myself that I am right, but I believe that the proportions are very nearly correct.

1350. Can you state why those proportions were adopted?—I have always understood that the Marquis of Bute's advisers, the lessors of the property, had in view, in charging a low galeage on the ironstone, the importance of giving encouragement to their lessees to work the native ironstone in preference to importing largely foreign ironstone; it was by way of inducing them to develope the ironstone on the property.

1351. Which they considered 1*d*. or 2*d*. a ton was calculated to do?—No doubt.

1352. What, taking it roughly, should you estimate to be the average royalty on ironstone throughout South Wales?—I think that the average royalty would probably be about 8*d*.; from 7*d*. to 8*d*.; 7½*d*., perhaps. Taking the whole district generally, I think that would be about the proportion. The fact is, that I have an instance in our own parish, where I was a party, letting, on great pressure, a large ironwork for 5½*d*. a ton; that was the whole sum I could get, though the whole property had been let before at 1*s*. a ton; and although the ironworks had cost 300,000*l*. in the erection, they were actually given to the parties who proposed to become lessees.

1353. I understand that the case was this, that the company had expended 300,000*l*. in the erection of ironworks, and that they had agreed to pay 1*s*. royalty on coal and ironstone; that the speculation had turned out so bad that, the landlords were glad to obtain a tenant, giving the works to the party who took it for nothing, and receiving a royalty of 5½*d*.?—Just so; but I will make it quite clear, by explaining the precise circumstances of the case. The works I speak of were the Abersychan Ironworks, belonging to the British Iron Company, who expended upon those works and in connexion with them more than 400,000*l*.;

400,000*l.*: the works themselves must have cost more than 300,000*l.* The speculation turned out very disastrous for the proprietors, as I understand, and the consequence was that they proposed surrendering the property to their lessors; and the lessors (I acting as their agent) made every effort to induce parties to come forward and take those works, and I induced the Ebbw Vale Company, by reducing the 1*s.* galeage to 5½*d.*, to take those works and the obligations as far as regarded the fixed rent. The original company had to pay 2,000*l.* a year in the way of fixed rent; and the Ebbw Vale Company undertook those obligations on condition of having the works given to them for nothing. They had the plant and everything in working condition, which had cost 300,000*l.*, given to them as a bonus for taking this work at 5½*d.* a ton galeage.

1354. It having been found impracticable to work it at 1*s.*?—I will not say it was impracticable, but the company found it to be so.

1355. That would go to show, first, that ironworks in South Wales, putting out of the question old leases of a very beneficial character, have not been profitable undertakings, and that even a halfpenny a ton is a very serious matter with reference to ironworks?—There is no doubt that that is so. The Dowlais Ironworks produce more than 1,500 tons of coal a day, and a halfpenny a ton on that would be a very large amount; so again with respect to the ironstone, a halfpenny a ton would be very important.

1356. I think you have said that the average royalty in South Wales on ironstone would be about 8*d.*?—Yes.

1357. What would you assume to be the average amount of the poor-rates throughout South Wales?—I have had no opportunity of knowing; I know that in my neighbourhood the rates are about 4*s.*

1358. So that, supposing a poor-rate were imposed on ironstone, the charge upon the ironstone would be increased by rather more than 1½*d.*?—I take it that it would amount to nearly that without calculating it closely.

1359. Which you consider a very serious burden?—A very serious burden.

1360. It has been suggested that the landlords might be taxed in respect of the royalty they receive. Can you state what is the nature of the covenants which are usually found in South Wales leases?—Yes; the fact is, that with regard to modern leases in that district, we invariably introduce covenants by which the lessees of the mines are bound to pay all rates and taxes of whatever kind except the landlord's property tax; that is invariably the case in all mining leases with which I have ever been concerned or have seen.

1361. So that, unless a provision were inserted in an Act of Parliament of such an imperative character that all those special agreements were overruled, the tax, even if placed on the landlord nominally, would actually fall on the tenant; is that so?—Undoubtedly. Assuming that by a special Act the landlord became liable to pay, of course I conceive it would be a very great injustice to him, inasmuch as his galeages or royalties have been estimated upon the assumption that he was to be relieved from those charges.

1362. The surface even of the landlord's property is, in many cases, much damaged, is it not, by the working of the mines?—It is very seriously damaged; in fact, some of the best portions of his land are cut up and covered with spoil, and are most seriously injured.

1363. So that you would not consider it an act of justice to impose that rate upon the landlord?—I do not consider that it would; but it would be an unusual course to do it.

1364. Even supposing that Parliament were to determine to propose this tax upon landlords, do you conceive that in future leases landlords would allow this tax to be imposed upon them?—I rather think they would seek, by some means, to relieve themselves indirectly of it; I think they would consider that in the galeage some additional charge should be imposed to meet it.

1365. Leaving for a moment South Wales, and looking to the working of ironstone generally, are you acquainted with any iron mines in distant parts of England?—Yes, I know some other ironworks, but not to any great extent. I am concerned, as adviser and agent, for some mines in Somersetshire, and there some of the South Wales ironmasters are taking very large tracts, with a view of supplying their works in South Wales.

1366. What are the royalties customary in those districts?—They vary from about 8*d.* to 1*s.*

1367. Do you consider that those undertakings could stand an additional

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imposition?—I am sure it is very doubtful; those iron mines lie in the form of lodes or veins, and they are very irregular in their character; of course our own are irregular, but these are more so. I know one instance in which the lessee of a very large property has made that a ground of abandoning the works, and for asserting that the property could not be worked advantageously; he has given it up now; that is in the Exmoor district.

1368. Are the iron mines of that district of a very irregular and uncertain character?—They are; all iron mines that lie in the form of lodes are so.

1369. So that it is a very hazardous and doubtful speculation?—I conceive so; my impression is, that where there is that amount of risk attached to them, and where the development of mines is so important to the country, they ought to be dealt with very liberally, and that, if possible, they should be free from all taxation.

1370. Do you consider that the development of the mines and the manufacture of iron in South Wales has increased the value of the land?—Undoubtedly it has to a very large amount, both with respect to bringing property into cultivation that otherwise would never pay for cultivating, and also with respect to building sites and sites for manufactories; it has increased the price of land to a fabulous extent in some particular districts; I conceive that all districts surrounding and in the vicinity of ironworks are very much increased in value.

1371. Do you consider that the establishment of ironworks on property has been a detriment to that property, or otherwise?—I think it has been of great advantage to it.

1372. Can you give any instance of an increase in the price of land in the neighbourhood of mines?—I do not know that I can give any particular instances of it, because the whole district seems to me to have been greatly increased in value; I know that instances are constantly occurring in my own practice in which, where I have leased a coal mine, I am able almost immediately afterwards to lease a farm at double its rent. That is not uncommon by any means in Merthyr Tydvil; no land can be got even upon cinder heaps and spoil banks for building purposes near the town, at less than 6 *d.* per square yard.

1373. So that regarding it purely in an agricultural point of view, the owner of the surface has been as I understand you largely benefited by the establishment of mines in his district?—Yes, I know an instance in Merthyr of a gentleman who had a small property that might have been worth some 40 or 50 years ago 50 *l.* a year, but is now worth some 1,500 *l.* or 2,000 *l.* a year, simply for its surface value; that has arisen from the extension of building in the direction of his property.

1374. Then no injustice has accrued in your judgment to the owners of the surface from the iron mines not having been rated?—I know no special cases of the kind; none have presented themselves to me.

1375. You think, on the contrary, that the value of the property has been so largely increased, that it has been greatly benefited by the establishment of iron mines in the locality?—There is no question that the value of the property there has been very largely increased.

1376. Have a great number of cottages been built by the workmen there?—Not to so great an extent as perhaps you might expect; in our district the ironmasters provide cottages to a very large extent, and small traders, agents of the works, contractors, and other persons, a superior class of workmen who have saved a little money, have built cottages, but the workmen do not generally build to any large extent; they do build, of course, but I mean that they do not do so to any great extent.

1377. Are those cottages rated to the poor?—Yes, they are.

1378. Are the cottages built by the ironmasters rated to the poor?—Entirely so.

1379. So that they probably bear a large proportion of the burdens of the parish?—A very large proportion.

1380. They form a very large proportion of the rateable property?—Yes; I cannot give you the precise figures, but you may take it is as a fact, that in Merthyr the ironmasters pay five-sixths of the whole of the rates. In our own parish, and in two or three neighbouring parishes, the payments from the works amount to about one-half of the rates, irrespective of the cottages, many of which belong to the ironmasters.

1381. Taking the value of works and cottages together, what proportion do you

you consider they bear in your district to the purely agricultural value of the land?—I cannot draw a distinction, but they generally amount to about one-half.

1382. Is that the works alone?—The works alone.

1383. What would it be if you add the cottages and other buildings?—That would of course increase the amount borne by the iron proprietors and the coal miners.

1384. The question being whether any injustice arises to the owner of agricultural property?—Just so; I do not think that any injustice arises.

1385. Are not the horses of the small farmers and tenants largely employed in the works in your district?—Generally throughout the district they are very largely employed in the collieries and ironworks; in fact, I know many small farmers who look, as a very important means of paying their rent, to the profits they derive from having three or four horses engaged in the works.

1386. Are those districts exporting or importing districts of agricultural produce?—I do not exactly understand the question.

1387. Is the agricultural produce consumed in the district, or is it exported?—It is consumed in the district.

1388. Are large quantities of agricultural produce imported into these districts?—In large quantities; every kind of produce.

1389. Is there a ready demand for all descriptions of agricultural produce at high rates?—Yes; the difficulty is to obtain a sufficient supply.

1390. There is a demand for every description of agricultural produce, is there?—Yes, every description.

1391. Within your own knowledge, where collieries and other works have been established, have the owners of farms been able to let them for double the rent at which they have been let before?—Yes.

1392. Have you ever heard miners complain that their cottages are rated, while their masters are not rated in respect of the ironworks they work?—No, I never heard any complaint of that kind. The fact is, the cottage property in our district is the most valuable kind of property, and proves a profitable mode of investment; there is such a great demand for cottages that they can realise 10*l.* and 20*l.* per cent. readily for cottages in the iron district.

1393. You will hardly say that working an iron mine yields a return of that amount?—No; it is owing to the large population associated with the works which require houses to a large extent.

1394. But the worker of an iron mine can scarcely calculate on realising a profit of 10*l.* or 20*l.* per cent.?—I believe that, taking the districts generally, it has been a losing trade. There are examples, such as Sir John Guest, and some of the old proprietors, by whom very large fortunes have been realised; but I know that nearly all the more recent speculations in the iron trade have been failures, and very disastrous ones in our districts.

1395. Are benefit clubs common in your district?—They are not only common, but they are universal. There is hardly a working man, or any miner, who does not eagerly seek that mode of providing for a time of sickness.

1396. In the event of sickness occurring does a miner become chargeable to the parish, or does he receive aid from the club?—He certainly receives aid from his club, but if he is permanently invalided, then he must have recourse to his parish; but in case of temporary illness, or accident which admits of cure within a reasonable period, his club maintains him.

1397. Does he receive medical and surgical aid?—That is all provided for him; I will not say by the proprietors of the works, because there is a stoppage called the "Doctor's Fund," of so much in the pound, made from the whole of the men in the works, and that provides for them the very best possible medical attendance. That is invariably the case in all collieries and ironworks.

1398. In the case of fatal accident occurring where widows and children are left, do they commonly become chargeable to the parish?—No, very seldom; the course which is generally adopted is this: the widow has her house and coal found for her; the children, if they are old enough, are put to work in the mines, or they are put to some employment suitable to their years as soon as possible, and some means are taken to put them in the way of supporting themselves. I must say, regarding the ironmasters and coal proprietors throughout South Wales, that very great regard is paid throughout the district to the point of providing for those who have lost the means of support in consequence of some

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some fatal accident occurring to the miner; and, in fact, in the case of an accident occurring which disables him from following his employment as he did before, if he loses a leg or an arm, some employment is found for the miner himself which is suitable to a man in that position.

1399. Have you considered the question of the exhaustion of the body of the estate at all?—In so far as to be impressed with the feeling that there is a degree of injustice in rating that which you take from the mine, and which is, in fact, exhausting the mine daily, and charging it as if it were a rent, it seems to me unfair to do so. With regard to many of our ironworks which are paying large revenues to the lessors, they are becoming exhausted very rapidly, and in 20 or 30 years, probably, some of the larger ones will be entirely worked out.

1400. So that the case of a mine is entirely distinct from the case of a farm, is it not; the produce of the farm is reproduced year by year?—Yes.

1401. Whereas the produce of a mine is not so reproduced, but when once it has been taken away it is exhausted?—Entirely so.

1402. Then you are actually in that case rating the property?—No doubt: in our parish they rate the actual galeage; in fact, they adopt a higher rate of galeage than is received by any landlord. I may give you one instance: 5 ½ *d.* per ton is paid at the Abersychan Ironworks, when in our parish the charge is 10 *d.* per ton. There are some cases in the district which more forcibly illustrate the case which has been put to me: in some instances it is customary to sell the coal absolutely by the acre, giving a man a certain time to work it out. It is assumed that each acre will produce a certain number of tons; the lessee, or, you may say, the purchaser, takes that coal at a certain sum per acre, and has a certain number of years in which to work that coal out.

1403. He pays a sum down?—Yes, or rather an annual rent; he pays for this coal by instalments.

1404. *Chairman.*] With the iron mines of South Wales you have coal associated, have you not?—Yes, in very thin seams or small nodular pieces, from the size of my fist to the size of a man's head.

1405. Is it your opinion, where there are mines, those mines benefit the agriculturists to such an extent that the agriculturists ought not to feel a burthen to pay the rates?—That is my opinion, certainly.

1406. Do you ever, in working mines, at all consider the agriculturists; are your operations undertaken with any relation at all to them, or are they apart from you?—I do not exactly understand the question.

1407. In laying out your mining operations in making contracts and so on, do you at all consider whether or not those mining operations and contracts will benefit the agriculturists in your neighbourhood?—No; we look at it as a speculation, having reference only to the parties engaged in it.

1408. Irrespective of the interests of the agriculturists?—Undoubtedly.

1409. But because indirectly what you do benefits them you think they ought to pay the rates?—I think so; I think the country generally benefits so much from the operations of mining, that legislation with regard to those concerned in mining operations ought to be very liberal, at all events.

1410. Although you do nothing in your operations with a view to promote the interests of the agriculturists, yet as the agriculturists are indirectly benefited, they therefore ought to take charge of the poor?—Yes, that is my opinion. I have throughout asserted my conviction that the owner of mines is already sufficiently highly taxed, and I have also stated it as a fact, that nearly all the ironstone worked in our district is worked by ironmasters in conjunction with other material which do pay rates very heavily, and consequently they do bear their fair proportion of the rates of the district.

1411. How is limestone rated?—At 3*d.* a ton generally.

1412. How is limestone raised?—By open excavations, similar to quarries.

1413. Have you any iron quarries in your neighbourhood?—There are a few patches in many parts of South Wales; for instance, in the district respecting which Mr. James gave evidence.

1414. Where you know them to exist, and where they are worked as quarries, are they always rated to the poor?—I cannot say that as a fact; I believe that when they are worked as quarries they are rated.

1415. When you speak of the immense losses which have been incurred within the last 15 years in your immediate neighbourhood, you speak of a million and a half?—Yes.

1416. And

1416. And you say that in some cases you think there is a chance that the mines must stop?—I think that is very possible. There is one case in our neighbourhood now, of very extensive works, on which 400,000 *l.* have been lost, and I hear that notice has been given to all the men that the works will stop.

1417. Do those men belong to that immediate neighbourhood, or have they been brought there in consequence of a mine?—Many have been brought there in consequence of the mine, but those works have been in operation for 30 years.

1418. Have the workmen built many cottages there?—Other people have built them, but not the workmen; the proprietors of the works have built cottages, and various other persons in the district have also built there.

1419. What would be the consequence to the agriculturists if that mine should stop?—I do not know that any serious consequences would ensue to them; those men would emigrate almost immediately, and find employment readily elsewhere.

1420. What would become of the old and the infirm?—Of course, unless they had some relatives who could support them, they must remain.

1421. From your own experience, which is very great, would you not suppose that a very considerable number of sick and infirm would remain behind?—No, not so many as you would suppose.

1422. Do you think that the greater proportion of the parties now chargeable would be removed?—No, I do not mean to say that; I mean that those capable of finding employment would emigrate elsewhere.

1423. Those now chargeable upon their rates would remain, and those who are the source of present wealth, namely, the active miners and those who consume the great part of the produce of the neighbourhood, and who cause an increase of the rates, would be removed?—Yes; but then the charges would fall still more heavily upon the ironworks. I have already stated that the works, the plant, the coal, and the limestone consumed in the works in our parish, pay more than one-half.

1424. I will take them at one-half; you say that 400,000 *l.* has been expended upon this mine?—Yes; but the amount of loss is no criterion. There is no doubt that that sum has been lost.

1425. Did that loss arise in consequence of rash speculations?—I can hardly tell you how it arose; but the fact is, that that amount has been lost. It was a joint-stock company, and such schemes have already turned out very disastrous, whenever they have been attempted in the iron trade.

1426. Do you pay the highway rates?—Yes, we do, and the police rates.

1427. That is on coal?—On coal and on the works. We pay 6 *d.* in respect of this highway rate, and 3 *d.* in respect of the police rate, in our parish.

1428. How is your carriage of the ironstone; is it by railway or by cart?—We had canals before; we have a railway now.

1429. Is that independent of the company?—Yes. Most companies have their private railways, which communicate with the canals; here there is a railway independent of the company.

1430. And that railway is a great benefit to you, as far as the transit of goods goes?—Unquestionably.

1431. Is that railway rated?—Yes.

1432. The railway which is a benefit to you is still rated?—No doubt, and we aid to pay them; in fact, without us they would be nothing.

1433. Are the canals rated?—They are rated at a very low amount; I believe, generally, upon very little more than the value of the land on which they stand.

1434. What are the miners' wages in your neighbourhood?—They vary; but they are not less in any case than 1 *l.* a week, and some of the firemen get very much higher wages; some of them get 2 *l.* and 3 *l.* a week.

1435. Are they, generally speaking, provident, or otherwise?—I think they are tolerably so, as a class; they are much better than they used to be.

1436. Have you more poor amongst the miners than amongst the agriculturists, or *vice versâ*?—Not in proportion to the population, I think. Taking them *pro rata*, I think not; because I know there is nothing that a respectable miner abhors so much as going to seek parish relief; he would almost starve rather than do it.

1437. The agriculturist in your neighbourhood has not that feeling?—He may

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may have that feeling, but his wages are generally very much lower than those of a miner.

1438. When you spoke, just now, of a small estate being worth many hundreds of pounds, which was formerly worth only 50 *l.*, you were alluding to an estate in the immediate neighbourhood of a large town, were you not?—You can hardly call them towns; they are a great congregation of workmen's houses.

1439. What is the population of Merthyr Tydvil?—I cannot tell; I should think that the population of the borough would be about 50,000, but I am speaking loosely.

1440. The rentals are high there, are they not?—Yes.

1441. And it is there that the estate of which you speak has so increased in value?—Yes, but the same thing would apply everywhere; it would apply to Pontypool and its neighbourhood, and to every other locality in which several of these large ironworks are gathered together.

1442. In point of fact, wherever there is a large mass of population, there the rents are high?—Yes; in working a coal field, they generally commence at the out-crops, and the workings gradually tend towards the deeper points; consequently it is near to the outside that the great seat of the population would be.

1443. Your parishes are very large, are they not?—Yes, they extend over many miles; one parish in our district extends 12 or 15 miles.

1444. Then there are a good many farms which are at a distance from these iron mines?—Some of them are, certainly; but you will find that in most of those parishes there are mines more or less spread over them. The parish of Gellygare has mines in almost every part of it; it has the Great Dowlais and a portion of the Romney, and other works in it.

1445. Taking the whole of the farms in that neighbourhood, do you think that 8-10ths or 9-10ths of them are, either directly or indirectly, benefited by those mines?—Yes, I do.

1446. And do you think that the rental of them is increased by reason of the mines?—Yes, undoubtedly.

1447. Do the holders of these farms ever complain at all that the holders of mining property are not sufficiently rated?—I never heard of such complaints.

1448. You have no disputes about the assessments?—There have been many disputes.

1449. What is the nature of those disputes?—It is the ironmaster who generally complains that he is unfairly charged; he is more generally the party to appeal; in fact, appeals are not uncommon, but they arise generally from the coalowner or iron proprietor; I mean the ironmaster; the maker of iron.

1450. Does he, when he appeals, get relief?—He does frequently. I have been concerned myself in giving evidence on appeals in various districts in the Forest of Dean and in South Wales.

1451. I presume his assessment is frequently raised?—He probably goes on for some time submitting to the exactions until they become unendurable, and then he appeals; and when he does appeal he generally gets relief.

1452. Taking the last 15 years, have the iron proprietors been rated at a higher rate than they were previously?—Yes, they have.

1453. Has the increase been very large?—Yes, very large.

1454. Has it been as much as 100 per cent.?—The tendency has been to raise their rates very considerably.

1455. Notwithstanding the relief they obtain by appealing to the quarter sessions?—I am speaking now of the general tendency, going back for a series of years.

1456. Notwithstanding the relief which he obtains when he appeals, which you say he does every now and then, still, during a series of years he has been obliged to pay a considerably larger sum than he paid previously?—Yes; but these appeals do not occur more than once in the course of a great many years. My remark applies to the whole district; the tendency no doubt has been to raise the rates very greatly. In the case of the ironworks which I mentioned just now as being very ruinous, and which were given away to induce the parties to take coal and ironstone at 5½*d.* per ton, the rates amount to 2,000 *l.* a year; that is the amount they pay; that sum they actually contribute.

1457. What is the amount of poor-rates generally in your neighbourhood; how much are they in the pound?—About 4*s.*; they vary; but that is about the

the average. I can tell you precisely what it was last year, if you wish it. In the year ending 25th March 1855 the rates amounted to 5 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, but that includes the highway rate and the police rate. In the year ending 25th March 1856, it was 4 *s.* 9 *d.*; and in 1847, 4 *s.* 6 ¾ *d.*

1458. With regard to the rating of the agriculturists, do they assess them upon their full rental?—There is a deduction made; but that varies very considerably, according to the notions of the parochial authorities in the district.

1459. What is the per centage; is it as much as 20 per cent.?—No, not so high; perhaps 10 per cent. might be about the average.

1460. With regard to the royalties, what deduction is made for them?—Very little; we pay upon the full 10 *d.* in our parish, which is very exorbitant. Generally speaking, about 6 *d.* is the rate.

1461. Supposing your royalty is 10 *d.*, do you pay upon the whole 10 *d.* without any deduction whatever?—Yes, in our parish we pay upon the whole 10 *d.*; but I must tell you fairly that that is really an extraordinary case, and it is a very unreasonable and unjust case; 6 *d.* would be more like the regular charge upon coal.

1462. Does that include lime also?—No; the lime is separately assessed at about 3 *d.*

1463. What do you pay as a royalty for lime?—About 3 *d.* or 4 *d.* We frequently have a charge of a fixed sum, perhaps 50 *l.* for a furnace, and use as much as we like.

1464. Are you rated at 50 *l.*, whatever you pay?—Yes; but in our parish again they make a sort of estimate, and charge 600 *l.* upon the furnace, including coal, limestone, the building itself, and a proportion of the blowing engine.

1465. In that case there is no assessment upon the royalty?—It is based upon the assumption that a certain quantity of coal is used.

1466. Mr. *Spooner*.] That includes the royalty?—Practically it does so.

1467. I suppose it is generally based upon the quantity consumed?—Yes; and from a sort of estimate of how much iron would be made from a furnace, and how much coal and limestone would be taken for each ton of iron.

1468. What would that amount to, on a rough guess; would it amount to as much as 3 *d.*?—No; I think that where they take it upon the furnaces it would not amount to so much as that; but it depends entirely upon their estimate of the make; but the make of a blast-furnace, even in our parish, varies according to the quality of iron made; if you make a fine quality of iron you make but a small quantity; it varies from 100 to 200 tons per week.

1469. You say that your mine is getting very scarce?—It is scarce certainly; but that is not so much what I was observing as the great expense of getting it, owing to the great depth to which we are obliged to go in search of it, and to the hardness of the ground in which the mine lies.

1470. Is hematite essential to mix with your mine?—It is very valuable, no doubt.

1471. Is it essential for the purpose of making iron?—We can make better iron with it, no doubt; we have always been importers of hematite in our district, but to nothing like the extent to which we import it now. We are now importing the oolitic ironstone of Northamptonshire, and iron ore from the Isle of Wight, the Forest of Dean, Somersetshire, and Cornwall.

1472. So far as your experience goes, are the agriculturists generally anxious to have mines opened in their neighbourhood?—Generally I have found that to be the case. I have generally found that the establishment of an ironwork in a district has been looked on as a matter of importance and value to that particular locality, and that the agriculturists in the immediate neighbourhood have been gratified with the prospect of having one, because of its finding for them a ready market for their produce, as well as labour for their horses: it benefits them in various ways. Our works are not like those in Cornwall; if a work is once established in our district, it generally exists for a long time; for a century, perhaps.

1473. In your opinion, then, agriculturists are rather pleased to have mines opened in their neighbourhood?—I have generally found it so.

1474. Mr. *Williams*.] You have spoken of one instance in which there is a sleeping rent paid of 2,000 *l.* a year?—Yes.

1475. Is that sleeping rent charged to the poor-rate?—No, not the sleeping rent;

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rent; but the quantity of coal worked in the property is generally in excess of that, and they pay upon that.

1476. Those works, you say, were suspended?—No, they were not suspended; they were about to be suspended; they were partly suspended, and the New British Iron Company had determined to withdraw from the concern altogether. The only question was, how they were to get rid of their liability to pay 2,000*l.* a year; and by giving up the whole of the works to the Ebbw Vale Iron Company, and the Ebbw Vale getting the galeage reduced from 1*s.* to 5½*d.*, they were able to do so.

1477. What proportion of the poor population are employed in those iron mines; is it one-half?—No, nothing like it. I am almost afraid to say, but I should think not more than a fifth, and perhaps not a sixth.

1478. In what way are the others employed?—They are employed in working coal largely. A great quantity of our iron ore is imported; then the coal is worked very largely; and to each ton of finished iron we should perhaps take no more than a ton and a half of our native stone; whereas we should have seven tons of coal. In addition to this we have the various operations of conversion and manufacture, and then there is the labouring population again always attached to an ironwork, to say nothing of the population employed in the district in various other ways not connected with the works.

1479. What proportion of the poor of that parish are agricultural poor?—I should say a very small proportion.

1480. Would it not be a manifest injustice that the agriculturists, employing only a small portion of the poor population, should have the burden of maintaining the whole of that large portion of the population who are otherwise engaged?—But they do not, I think, bear more than a fair proportion. The iron masters pay very largely, and the house property throughout the district pays largely too. I think that on the whole the agriculturists are very fairly dealt with.

1481. Who would have to maintain these poor, if all the ironworks in the district were to stop; upon whom would the expense fall?—That is assuming a case which I deem to be an impossible one. I have never seen any of our ironworks abandoned, or totally suspended.

1482. Have you not seen works suspended at a time when the iron trade has been bad, and has it not followed that the poor-rate has been materially increased?—Yes; but when that pressure comes it is very severely felt by the other ironworks, which are kept open.

1483. Does not that pressure come very severely on the agriculturists in the parish?—That must be admitted; but I conceive that they derive great advantages at other times from their proximity to those ironworks in consequence of the increased value of their produce.

1484. Does not that fluctuate according to the times?—According to the times, no doubt, it fluctuates.

1485. Are railways rated to the parish rates?—Yes.

1486. Are they highly rated?—No; I think they are fairly rated in our parish.

1487. Then is it your opinion that the royalties of the iron mines should not be rated to the poor?—I think they should not be rated to the full amount, certainly.

1488. Do you think they should be rated to any extent?—I would not go to the extent of saying they should not be rated at all, but I think they should be very liberally dealt with.

1489. You think they should be rated to some extent?—I will not say that they should not; but, on the other hand, I think that coal is much too highly rated. Having regard to our position in South Wales, and to the fact that coals and ironstone are associated together, I say if you rate ironstone you should in some way relieve us in respect of the coal.

1490. Where they are not associated, should not the receivers of the iron royalties pay something towards the maintenance of their own poor. Is it not manifestly just that they should do so?—You are now assuming a case that does not apply to us much in South Wales.

1491. Does it apply at all?—I think it possible and probable that some small amount might be charged in respect of iron ore; but with respect to us in South Wales, I conceive that the ironworks are as highly taxed as they can possibly bear.

1492. Do you think that the land in the neighbourhood, whilst those ironworks are continued in full work, is increased in value?—Yes.

1493. What do you think would be the consequence if those ironworks were stopped?—There is no doubt that the effect would be to depreciate the value of land very considerably; but that is a case which does not frequently arise.

1494. Mr. *Foster.*] How is coal assessed in your district when no royalty is payable, but when a purchase of the mines is made, and when they are paid for in one round sum?—In those cases which have come under my notice, a sum has been estimated as the probable or proper galeage to charge in respect of that coal.

1495. And the rate has been fixed with respect to that?—Yes.

1496. Bearing a sort of royalty in view?—An estimated royalty; that is to say, when the coal comes into actual operation, when the coal is actually in work, then a galeage is assessed in respect of it.

1497. That royalty showing the value of the mineral?—It is presumed to show its value, per ton, to the proprietor or lessor of the mine. The fact is, that every ton abstracted from the mine decreases the value of the property by so much; and the chances are, that where the operations are on a large scale, even an extensive property will be worked out in the course of a few years.

1498. Do you think that the system, which you say partially prevails, of throwing the rate on the blast furnaces and buildings in one gross sum, including the royalties, in any way shows the difficulty of assessing mines themselves satisfactorily?—I do not know that I could go so far as to say there would be any difficulty in arriving at the quantity of ironstone worked, or anything of that kind.

1499. But with regard to the fair amount at which it should be assessed?—I do not think it arises from that. The coal is taken into account, as is also the limestone, but the ironstone is invariably considered to be excluded from the calculation.

1500. Is it a system which is adopted by yourself?—Yes, by the consent of all parties.

1501. In one and the same parish would that system generally prevail over that parish, or would there be cases in which the rate would in some instances be assessed upon the blast furnaces to include the royalties, and other cases in which it would be assessed upon the royalties for their share, and upon the blast furnaces for their share?—In the cases I speak of the same principle applies throughout; the whole of the ironworks are rated in the same manner, but at a rent of 600 *l.* per blast furnace; but where collieries are worked distinct from ironworks, there they are charged at a galeage of 10 *d.*, and are not associated with the ironworks; but wherever they are associated with ironworks, the rate is taken upon the furnace, but of course the quantity of coal which is considered to be consumed in that furnace is taken into account.

1502. Mr. *Child.*] You say the average royalty in the case of ironstone mines is about 7 *d.* or 8 *d.*?—Yes.

1503. What is the average thickness of the ironstone?—I should say from about eight to ten inches, in about as many feet of ground, would be a very fair working. Sometimes there are little undulations; they occur occasionally in nodules; but if you take them as a continuous seam, I should say that if you have an inch of ironstone to a foot of ground it is a fair working.

1504. That is an inch of ironstone to a foot of ground removed?—Yes; a foot of ground removed to get an inch of ironstone.

1505. That must be very expensive to get, must it not?—Very expensive.

1506. What is the average depth from the surface of those mines?—They vary from workings upon the extreme outcrop, or workings from the surface, to workings at a depth of from 300 to 350 yards.

1507. Some of the seams of ironstone are associated with seams of coal, are they not?—Yes, that is in the same stratification, but they cannot often be worked together; it seldom happens that you can have a working such as that described by Mr. James, who is able to work his ironstone very cheaply.

1508. That is not the case with you?—We have the same stratification, but we consider ourselves very fortunate where we have coal so near the seams of ironstone that we can work them together; it reduces the cost of getting the ironstone very much.

1509. In those cases the rate would be payable for the coal mines so worked?

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—It seldom happens; they are generally worked separately; there are sometimes nodules, which are above the seams; those they occasionally get out, but they form a very unimportant portion of the supply.

1510. Mr. *Ridley*.] You say you are much consulted by the lessees of mines?—By lessors chiefly; but I am also consulted by lessees.

1511. As regards coal mines in your district, upon what principle do they proceed when they assess them to the poor-rate?—They generally estimate a certain royalty per ton; they take very much the same amount that is paid to the landlord, and assume that to be the rateable value, and that amount varies from 6*d*. to 10*d*.

1512. Do they make deductions?—Occasionally they do, but in our parish they do not, and yet they adopt a very high rate; higher than is at all reasonable.

1513. I understood you to tell the Committee that some mining companies in Wales were opening new fields of ironstone?—Not in Wales, but in North Devonshire and in Somersetshire. The Ebbw Vale Company are working them very largely on the Brendon Hills, and the Dowlais Company on Exmoor.

1514. Are you acquainted with those openings?—Yes, I act for the landlords there.

1515. What is the amount of the royalty?—They have only just commenced; the leases, in fact, have only just been granted. One extensive tract belongs to a Member of this House, Mr. Winn Knight.

1516. Have those leases been granted at almost a nominal rent to induce them to open the field?—No; what I say is, that there are no means yet of ascertaining what the galeage is per annum, or likely to be, as the workings are only exploring operations at present. The leases, in fact, have hardly been granted yet.

1517. Can you state what is the difference in the cost of working this ironstone when it is worked as quarries and as mines?—It is much less expensive to work it as quarries.

1518. Can you give me an idea of the difference?—No; it would vary in different parts; but I conceive that the difference between patching and working it, at considerable depths, would be as much as 2*s*. or 3*s*. a ton.

1519. Mr. *Cavendish*.] Would the royalty on the open quarries be larger than on the mine?—Yes; I should charge a considerably higher galeage had I property capable of being worked by open excavations, than I should charge in a case where it was necessary to sink to a great depth.

1520. I think you have stated that the district with which you are connected is a prosperous district, in which the population are well employed?—The population are singularly well employed; but it is not to be regarded as a prosperous one with reference to the interests of the speculators.

1521. How do you account for the fact of the population being so well employed as you describe, whilst the poor-rates are as high as 4*s*. and 5*s*. in the pound?—I do not know how to account for it, but the fact is so. There is a very large population gathered together, which, you may say, hangs upon the skirts of the working population.

1522. Your poor rates are above the average in the country, are they not?—There is a large moving population in our district; there are many men who do not stay long in any one place, and those are the men who generally get upon the rates.

1523. Is that population brought there by the manufacturers?—Probably so; but generally speaking, we find that the mining population locate themselves fixedly on one spot, and it is very difficult to remove them, unless some depression in the trade occurs.

1524. Mr. *Spooner*.] With regard to the principle on which you think royalties ought to be rated to the poor, do you conceive that they ought to be rated to their full amount?—Certainly not.

1525. Or do you think that you should take into consideration the fact that part of that royalty consists of capital and part of rent?—Certainly. I would state that I was by no means prepared to give evidence before this Committee; but without being in a condition to define any principle, I should say that the present mode of assessment is not an equitable one, inasmuch as the assessment is upon the galeage, when in point of fact every ton abstracted upon which that galeage

galeage is charged depreciates the value of the property; and when eventually that mineral becomes exhausted, the property will be comparatively of no value. *W. Llewellin*, Esq. 16 June 1857.

1526. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Are you acquainted with any works of an open nature in which large bodies of men are employed?—No, I am not; of course there are patches on which a considerable number of men are employed.

1527. Would not all those claims of exemption which have been put forward in respect of the benefit conferred upon the landed interest by the consumption of agricultural produce, by the building of cottages, and by the consumption of the corpus of the property, be equally applicable to open works?—No doubt they would.

1528. And those are rated?—Yes.

Veneris, 19° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Child.
Mr. Hussey Vivian.	Mr. Michael Williams.
Mr. Bouverie.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. G. H. Cavendish.	

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Samuel Dobson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1529. Mr. *Vivian.*] YOU are, I believe, a Mining Engineer, residing in Glamorganshire?—Yes. *S. Dobson*, Esq. 19 June 1857.

1530. For what mineral properties are you agent?—I am agent for a great number of mineral properties in Glamorganshire and elsewhere; but my principal agencies are those of Baroness Windsor, Colonel Tint, Sir George Glynn, Colonel Turbeville, and there are several other smaller owners of minerals for whom I act. I am the manager also of different collieries, and among them the Duffryn Collieries, which are very extensive works.

1531. You are generally consulted on mineral matters, are you not?—Yes.

1532. And I presume you are generally well acquainted with the whole of the South Wales mineral district?—I am.

1533. Have you ever considered the question of rating mines?—Yes, I have considered it occasionally.

1534. The South Wales district consists both of coal and iron mines, does it not?—Yes; they are principally coal and iron mines; there are other metallic mines also; there are lead mines in some parts of the district, but they are not important.

1535. The coal is in all cases rated, is it not?—Yes, always.

1536. Are you able to state to the Committee upon what principle it is rated?—I do not think it is rated on any definite principle; the mode which is adopted of fixing the rateable value is by the ton worked; the same sum per ton is generally fixed on for the whole of the coal raised in a parish, but the amount varies in different parishes. I do not think that any fixed principle is adopted in arriving at the amount which is charged; it is generally a sort of compromise between the workers of collieries and the parish officers; the parish officers put on a rate of so much, taking care to put it high enough, and the colliery proprietors resist it; and if the question cannot be arranged, they go first before the magistrates, and then if they do not get redress in this way, they appeal to the court of quarter sessions, and the court settles between the parties in the best way it can.

1537. Is ironstone rated in South Wales?—When it is worked by open patches, it is always rated; but when it is mined for, it is not rated.

1538. Are you able to say whether it is more cheaply got when it is worked by patches or by open work, than it is when it is worked by means of pits or levels?—Generally speaking, it is got more cheaply when it is worked by patching, because then it is near the crop.

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1539. Ironstone is imported in large quantities into South Wales, is it not?—Yes, from the Furness district, and from Cornwall; the quantity that is imported is considerably on the increase, in consequence of its now being more expensive to work the Welsh mine than it used to be; the mine lying near the crop having become exhausted, persons working iron mines are obliged to sink deeper pits, and in those pits it is found that the ground in which the mine is imbedded, has become much harder, and in blasting it, much larger quantities of gunpowder are obliged to be used, and the result is, that all the expenses are very greatly increased; so that, instead of having to pay from 8*s.* to 10*s.* for mine, it costs from 12*s.* to 15*s.* on the average in South Wales.

1540. On that account is the consumption of Welsh mine decreasing?—I think it is. The tendency is to decrease the quantity consumed; the depth at which iron mine is being worked is becoming greater every day, and the deeper they go down to get the mine, the greater will be the expense of getting it.

1541. Can you state at all at what period foreign mine was first imported into Wales?—No, I do not know.

1542. Is it within your knowledge that within a certain number of years mine was first imported into South Wales?—I am not able to say when it was first imported; I know that the quantity of mine imported has increased very much indeed since I first knew the district.

1543. While the quantity of Welsh iron mine consumed has decreased?—I do not know that I could go so far as to say that there has been much decrease in the quantity of Welsh mine consumed, because the make of iron mine has increased; probably the imported ironstone has been used to produce the increased make of iron.

1544. Originally the Welsh ironworks depended entirely, did they not, upon Welsh mine?—Altogether; and if the ironmasters could get it now at a moderate expense, they would still rather use their own mine than mine coming from other districts.

1545. Is the quality of the Welsh iron generally better than the foreign mine?—Yes, it is generally.

1546. It is most important, at all events, as a mixture?—Yes.

1547. Are ironstone and limestone, when worked by patching, always rated?—Yes; there are some cases in which building-stone quarries are not rated, but I take it that that has been in consequence of an omission in making the rate; in the South Wales district there is no fixed rule in rating; the rateable value is in nearly all cases arrived at by compromise between the parish officers and the mine owners; they arrange the rates in any way they can; the mine owners say, "If you put so much on our ironstone, you must not rate our limestone quarries," or something of that kind; the same principle does not prevail in regard to rating anything in the shape of works in any two parishes in South Wales; the principle at present is most indefinite by which the rateable value of property is arrived at.

1548. Is it not the fact that in some cases coal used for the manufacture of iron is not rated, but that the rating occurs upon the furnace in which the coal is used?—I do not know any such case; I think that the coal is generally rated, and then there is a separate rate affecting the furnace, which includes everything connected with the furnace, as mills, forges, and everything necessary to carry on the operation of converting iron ore into finished iron.

1549. But there are cases, are there not, in which the mills are separately rated?—Yes; in some parishes the matter is gone into in very great detail; for instance, in the case of the Llynvi Vale Works, I find that they rate them first in respect of the coal they work, at so much per ton; then they rate them upon the ironstone patched or quarried; they do not rate them upon the ironstone got by mining; and they rate them also in respect of the furnaces, at so much a furnace.

1550. At how much a furnace?—£. 350 a furnace; then they rate the blast engine, the pumping engine, the winding engine, the inclines and railways separately; the refineries also they rate separately, and so they do the forges and mills; in fact, they rate the different mills in the same work separately, though they may be all perhaps under the same sheds; there is an immense amount of detail observed in the case I have mentioned; but that is not the case in all parishes.

1551. In your judgment, would it be just to impose a rate upon ironstone in addition

addition to those rates which you have now enumerated?—I think that the Llynvi Vale Ironworks are rated very heavily indeed; any additional rate that might be imposed would be very severely felt: I think that an increased rate would be oppressive upon ironworks generally. The ironworks are generally situated near to towns: there are large works near Merthyr Tidvil and Aberdare, which are subject to a great number of rates, the poor-rate, the county rate, the police rate, the rate for the stipendiary magistrates, the Board of Health rate, and various other rates. The ironworks in these parishes are saddled with all those rates, and any additional rate would be felt oppressive; at the same time it does seem a hardship upon persons having other descriptions of property in the parish that ironstone should be exempt. I do not myself see any reason why it should be exempt from rating any more than coal is exempt. I think that the whole system of rating in regard to ironworks, coalworks, and mines generally, ought to be remodelled. The system at present in operation is extremely defective and unsatisfactory.

1552. Is it your opinion that, whereas ironworks, taken as a whole, are already sufficiently rated, you consider it an injustice that where ironstone mines are worked separately in the same parish with coal mines, those mines should not be rated?—I think it is always an injustice, coal mines being rated, to exempt other mines; looking at it as a matter of abstract justice, I do not see any reason why an ironstone mine should not be rated just as much as any other description of mine. In the parish of Aberdare, where there are a number of collieries and large ironworks, and where the rates are very heavy, there is a considerable amount of dissatisfaction felt among the colliery proprietors because ironstone is not rated; in the parish of Gellygare there is one person working coal and black band out of the same pit; he works considerably more black band than he does coal, and there is no doubt that the black band is much more profitable to him than the coal is. There are other owners of collieries in the same parish who work coal only, and who do not work black band; now the person working the black band pays rates in respect of his coal, but not in respect of the black band; that is looked upon as a grievance, and I think very properly so.

1553. Is that coal rated at a higher rate per ton than the coal worked from an adjoining pit?—No, precisely the same.

1554. Do you consider that the ironworks generally in South Wales are already sufficiently rated to the poor?—I think they are; I think that if you impose a rate on ironstone at all, you must remodel the system of rating with regard to works generally; and so as that, although a rate shall become payable upon ironstone, the aggregate rateable value shall not be increased.

1555. With your great experience you have no doubt conducted many negotiations for the leasing of mineral property?—Yes; I have been very much concerned indeed in negotiations of that kind.

1556. What is the average royalty on iron mines throughout South Wales?—It varies very much, from 4 *d.* to as much as 18 *d.* a ton.

1557. At what average do you think it might be roughly taken?—I should think you might put down the average at about 7 *d.* a ton.

1558. What is the average poor-rates throughout South Wales?—I am not able to answer that question with any degree of accuracy.

1559. Do you think it might be taken at 4 *s.* in the pound?—That would be my notion.

1560. That would be a fifth?—Yes.

1561. So that iron mine, if rated on the royalty, would be rated at about 1·4 *d.*, or nearly 1½ *d.* a ton?—Yes, that would be so.

1562. Do you consider that 1½ *d.* a ton on ironstone would be a very heavy impost, or the reverse?—It would be a very serious impost in the present state of things. In the case of an iron mine, 1 *d.* a ton would be considered a very important item in fixing the royalty; 1 *d.* a ton would be sufficient, in most cases, to induce parties to break off a negotiation for the taking of an ironstone mine.

1563. Probably it is within your own knowledge that negotiations of an important character have been broken off on a question of 1 *d.* a ton?—Yes; I have known that happen over and over again, both with respect to coal and with respect to ironstone.

1564. That is where 1 *d.* a ton more has been demanded by the lessor and refused by the lessee?—Yes.

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1565. So that the imposition of 1 *d.* a ton would be considered a very serious burden?—There is no doubt that it would.

1566. Have you ever heard complaints made with regard to the non-rating of iron mine in South Wales?—I think that it is only since attention has been called to the subject by the proceedings of this Committee that there has been much dissatisfaction expressed about it; in Aberdare, where the rates are heavy, and where the collieries are very much mixed up with the ironworks.

1567. Probably your opinion would be that, in the event of the rating of metallic mines becoming the law of the land, the rates in the aggregate paid by the ironworks in South Wales would not be very materially affected?—The rates would, in some cases, be considerably increased.

1568. Supposing an ironwork at the present time to pay 1,000 *l.* a year to the poor-rates, and that that bears its full proportion to the general rating of the poor in the parish, and supposing it became possible to rate the mine worked at that work to the poor, do you consider that that 1,000 *l.* rating would be increased?—Yes, there is no doubt that it would be increased very much. If you come to add the rateable value of the ironstone mines to the existing rateable value, no doubt the increase would be very considerable.

1569. But would there not be a corresponding reduction in the rating of other parts of the concern?—I think not; there would be a reduction to a certain extent. In the parish of Aberdare, for instance, where the property is very large and the rates are very heavy; the reduction would be very inconsiderable. I think there was a calculation made in respect of the Plymouth Ironworks in the parish of Merthyr Tydfil; in that case I think it was found that the rates of those works would be increased something like 20 per cent., assuming a rate to be imposed upon ironstone; after all, the increased rateable value, if you take the aggregate of the parish, does not amount to very much, so that whatever addition is made falls upon the ironmaster without his getting much benefit from the reduction of the rate in respect of his other property; in the parishes of Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare they do not go into that amount of detail which I have described with reference to the other ironworks I have mentioned; in the two first-named parishes they rate the coal so much a ton; they do not rate the ironstone that is mined for, but they rate the blast furnaces at so much a furnace, and that amount covers everything connected with the furnace in the shape of roads, refineries, and so on; they do not go into all the details which they go into in the case of the Llynvi Vale Ironworks.

1570. Can you state what in your opinion is the general result of mining operations in South Wales?—If you take the whole mining operations of South Wales into account, including the ironworks, I think that they form a very poor investment indeed. The trade is kept up in this way: in all descriptions of mining there are great prizes to be gained, and so long as that is the case, you will have great numbers of people embarking in it, and investing their capital in it, in the hope of gaining a prize; but for every prize that is gained there are great numbers of losses; many people have spent very large sums in mining operations without any return; some very important works have been established in South Wales, which have passed out of the hands of the original proprietors through failure, and the present proprietors have taken them up at merely a nominal amount.

1571. What deduction would you draw from that fact as regards the advisability of rating mines?—I think it shows this: that a speculative property of that kind ought to be rated as low as possible; that the rates ought to be made as little oppressive as possible; that in fixing the rates to be paid, due importance should be attached to the uncertain character of mining property. I am speaking now of coal as well as of metallic mines. I apprehend that a principle of this kind ought to be kept in view in rating mining property. Land is worth, we will say, 30 years' purchase; dwelling-houses 20 to 25 years' purchase; manufactories perhaps 15 years' purchase; the number of years' purchase varies very much with the description of manufacture, and so on; if you take coal mines, you may take the average at from six to eight years' purchase; and you may take ironstone mines at about the same. If you come to the metallic mines, I suppose you could not put them down at more than from two to four years' purchase; they are much more speculative in their character than the more regular deposits, such as coal and the clay ironstone of Wales. The ironstone which is found in veins would come under the same head as to value as the uncertain metallic

mines

mines of Cornwall, Devon, and other places. Now I think that due importance should be attached in rating mines of all descriptions to the years' purchase which different descriptions of property are worth; in other words, a deduction from the net value of the property to let, depending upon the years' purchase it is worth, should be made. The value to let would be arrived at in the same way as it is arrived at for rating purposes in all descriptions of manufactories; namely, by making the probable profit the basis. The rent would be the difference between the probable profit and what a tenant ought reasonably to be satisfied with. There is always an allowance made for repairs, insurance, and so on, for the purpose of maintaining the manufactory in the state in which it was at the time at which it was let. The same principle might be applied in the case of coalmines very well, only you must allow a much greater amount for maintenance in the case of mines than you would allow in the case of manufactories.

1572. The mine is continually being exhausted?—Certainly; I say you must not rate mines on the royalties; you must rate mines as you would rate any other description of property. I have had occasion to contend against rates before the court of quarter sessions, and I have always taken the royalty as a deduction simply.

1573. And not as forming the basis of the rateable value of the property?—No; I do not see how you can rate a man's real property, which his mines are, any more than his timber if he cuts it down; indeed I think there is a stronger reason for rating timber than there is for rating mines, because timber is re-producible, and mine is not re-producible; when it is worked out, it is gone for ever.

1574. You consider, then, that it would be very improper to rate a lessor?—I think so; I do not see how you could rate the lessor; in the case of mines it would be unfair and inconvenient to rate the lessor; for these reasons, you would be rating the corpus of his estate. In nine cases out of ten the lessor is non-resident, and he could scarcely be got at; the occupier is always to be got at; he may be assumed to be always upon the premises which form the subject-matter of rating. The person to be rated should have a voice in fixing the rate. The lessor, as I have already said, often does not reside in the district, and probably he has no representative in the district, and consequently can have no voice in anyway in fixing the rate. If you were to rate the royalties, it is quite clear that great injustice would be the result, because, as I have already said, the royalties vary from 4*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a ton in the same parish; the mines being of equal value, and the royalties being different, owing to the property having been let at different times, and for other reasons. I myself represent some property now which is being worked very extensively indeed, and in respect of which a rent of 100*l.* only is paid; if the royalties were to be rated in that case, of course the rateable value would be simply 100*l.*; and there would be great dissatisfaction in consequence. If royalties were rated some mines would be rated at 1*d.* a ton, while others, probably of equal value only, would be rated at 1*s.* 6*d.* a ton; if such a state of things were introduced, it would create an immense amount of dissatisfaction; if you were to adopt an average of the royalties, the landlord would, in many cases, have to pay in the shape of poor-rate more than the amount he would be getting probably in the shape of royalties.

1575. Are those variations in the amount of the royalties constant throughout South Wales?—Yes, they constantly vary.

1576. Are you able to state any case in which the lessor at present pays rates?—I do not think that a case of that kind exists in South Wales. I know of one case in which the lessor within the last two years has agreed to pay a part of the rates for his tenant, because his mine had become poor, and he applied for a reduction of the royalty; the lessor said, "I will not give you a reduction of your royalty, but I will pay a portion of your rates." That is the only case of the kind that I know of in South Wales.

1577. In all mining leases with which you are familiar, are the rates and taxes parochial and otherwise, except property-tax, payable by the lessees?—Yes, always; I do not know an exception, and I have seen some hundreds of mining leases relating to property in South Wales.

1578. *Chairman.*] As I understand you, there is no system throughout the whole of South Wales as to rating the royalties on coal?—No, there is no fixed system. In the case of the Llantrisant parish, a short time ago the colliery proprietors considered that they were over-rated; in that case the rate was considerably

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siderably above the royalties paid in the district. The royalties in the parish ran from about 3 *d.* a ton up to 7 *d.* or 8 *d.*, and they were rated at 9 *d.*; they considered that they were over-rated, and they agreed to take an average colliery of the district, and have the question tried; they applied to the magistrates to have the rates reduced, and the magistrates refused to interfere; they then appealed to the court of quarter sessions. I was engaged in the matter by the colliery proprietors; and what I contended before the magistrates was, that coal mines should be rated on the same principle as other descriptions of property; that they must be rated as a whole, with all its ramifications; that everything must be taken into account which was necessary to carry on the colliery, and to produce a profit; and that royalty should be dealt with simply as a deduction.

1579. What was the issue of that?—The magistrates reduced the rate.

1580. To what did they reduce it?—To 7 *d.* a ton.

1581. In some districts with which you are acquainted, do they not rate the royalty at a much less sum than is actually paid in the shape of royalty?—Yes; but I do not know whether they take the royalty as a guide; I do not think they take it as a guide; it often happens, indeed nearly always, that it is rated considerably under the amount of the royalty.

1582. If I understand you, it is a constant struggle between the proprietors and the assessor as to who can win the fight as regards imposing rates on the royalty?—Not a rate on the royalty; I do not think you can rate mines in any way except by taking the quantity raised, and fixing the rate at so much a ton; but you must not call it a royalty; you must not rate what is paid to the landlord.

1583. But the only way in which you can rate it is by taking the royalty which is paid, is it not?—No, I think not. For instance, where a coal mine has become unprofitable, I have known cases in which the rate has been done away with, although the royalty has been paid to the landlord. In the case of the Monkwearmouth colliery it was found at one time that the colliery was carried on without profit, and the parish charged no rate.

1584. That, I suppose, was in order that the poor should not be thrown out of employ?—Possibly so; such was the fact; notwithstanding the royalty continued to be paid to the landlord; no rate was paid; and I think the same thing would be; and I think the same thing would occur in regard to other collieries similarly circumstanced.

1585. But still, wherever the poor-rate is demanded, it must be based upon the royalty, must it not?—My notion is that you must not take the royalty into account at all, except as a deduction.

1586. Is it not based upon profits?—I think it is based upon what the colliery will let for. I will put a case, if you will allow me: suppose you go to a man and say, "I want to take your coalfield," and he says, "I will let it you at 6 *d.* a ton," you do not know whether it can be worked to a profit or not, and you have to go on and expend a large sum of money before you can realise anything; if you wanted to let that property afterwards, you would say, "I pay so much a ton to my landlord; I have proved that mine exists in the property. I have sunk pits, erected machinery, and put the property in such a state that a profit may be made out of it; I consider that what I have done is worth 6 *d.* a ton more to let." Now I say that the difference between the royalty and the value that has been conferred on the property by reason of the tenant's operations, is what ought to be rated; that is what we have always contended before the quarter sessions.

1587. Whilst there have been these great complaints made by the owners of collieries that they are rated, and that the parties who hold ironstone mines are not rated, what does the agriculturist say?—Agriculture forms a very unimportant part of industry in the South Wales district; mining is nearly all confined to the hills, where there is very little agriculture carried on.

1588. What proportion of the rates do you think is paid by the agriculturists in those parishes in which mining is carried on?—I should not think that the agriculturists pay a 40th or a 50th part of the rates.

1589. The district is so poor, as far as agriculture goes?—Yes.

1590. You say that in some places they are very particular, going into the matter in great detail, and rating the plant and everything?—Yes.

1591. And in other places they are content simply to rate the coal, and where they can, they rate the patches?—Yes.

1592. As far as your experience goes, where the ironstone is rated, it is rated in patches; are they as particular as they are where it is raised in any other way; supposing you are in a mining district, where there is much ore raised from patches, and where the patches are rated to the poor, are they as particular there?—Yes, they are quite as particular; it is only in the Llynvi Vale district that they appear to be so particular about rating the plant; there is no doubt that the iron company I have spoken of might very well resist a great deal of this rating of their property; a great number of things are rated which I do not think any parish has a right to rate. Where they go into detail so much, it always leads to difficulty and dispute, that has been found to be very much the case with collieries where it has been attempted, and the result has been, that now collieries pay a rate per ton which covers everything. It is considered that you must take the colliery with all its ramifications; namely, with everything in connexion with it that is necessary for carrying on the works; the colliery must be viewed as a whole; that is becoming the case very much now.

1593. I gather from you, that, in your opinion, it is very desirable that there should be some distinct system of rating adopted?—Yes, I think that is very important.

1594. At present the system which is in operation is full of anomalies?—Yes.

1595. If mines are to be rated at all, you see no reason why the black band should not be rated?—No, I do not see how it is to be resisted; I think that if there is to be any new system of rating, all mines should be rated.

1596. But, having regard to the capital which is invested in mines, and to the small interest which is paid upon that capital in South Wales, are you of opinion that, upon the whole, it is an over-taxed property?—Yes; I say that the mining property, as a whole, in South Wales has not been, is not, and I think never will be a good investment. I have stated to the Committee why it is that people embark their capital in it.

1597. If mining property is to be rated, you see no reason why black band should not be rated to the poor, as well as the coal?—I do not.

1598. Have you any ideas of your own as to how that property should be rated?—I have not worked them out sufficiently to be able to place before the Committee my views upon the subject.

1599. But you have gone rather largely into it. Just now you expressed a strong opinion upon the subject: am I right in supposing you to be of opinion that agricultural property, which is a reproducing property, is worth 25 years' purchase?—Yes; 30 years' purchase.

1600. That a colliery is worth about eight year's purchase?—Yes.

1601. And that primeval property is worth about five years' purchase?—Yes.

1602. You would rate the colliery property at about one-third of the royalties, and the other mining property at about a fifth?—If you adopt the royalties as the basis of rating, which I say it would be unjust to do, that would be something like the principle; I do not mean exactly in those ratios; that would have to be arrived at. You could not say that in all cases coalmines should be rated at a third, and other mines at a fourth, and so on; you must leave it an open question; but you must lay down the principle upon which the rating is to be fixed, and it must be left to proper valuers to carry out.

1603. Take a number of mining districts that you know in which the poors-rate amounts to 4 *s.* in the pound; supposing you were to rate now, for the first time, the ironstone, what proportion of new rateable property would you create, because in some instances the black band I suppose is more valuable than coal?—Yes; I know cases where the coal in a property is let at 7 *d.* a ton, while the black band is let for 18 *d.* a ton, and the quantity of black band which is worked is quite as large as the quantity of coal worked.

1604. Then if you create in those districts a new property which is much more valuable than the coal property, you will very considerably reduce the rates upon the coal property, will you not?—No doubt in a case of that kind.

1605. So that the ironstone would not have to pay 4 *s.* in the pound?—No; if you take the case of the Llynvi Ironworks, that company, and another company established in the same parish, pay nearly the whole of the rates, and they do not at present pay anything in respect of the ironstone; if you increase the rateable value of the property by making the ironstone rateable, it is like taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another. In the case of Aberdare, the

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rateable property of the district consists for the most part of collieries; but there are two large ironworks in the parish, and they would be affected in a very different manner from the ironworks of the Llynvi Valley.

1606. With regard to your poor generally in those districts, are most of them colliers?—Yes.

1607. Are they long-lived or short-lived men in general?—I should say that they are not of the average length of life. You may take it that they are short lived; but I may also say that that does not arise from the unhealthy character of their occupation, so much as from their intemperate habits; they get very high wages, and the consequence is that they indulge in all sorts of irregularities.

1608. Is it a shifting population or not?—Very much so; about the ironworks it is not so much so as it is about the collieries.

1609. Mr. *Bouverie.*] What is the current rate of wages in the district?—In the Sale collieries in the Aberdare Valley they earn on an average, when they are at work, 5 *s.* a day; in the ironworks the men earn a good deal more; but in working the ironstone, they do not get so much.

1610. Do the men in that district combine; have they trades unions?—They have unions among themselves, but they are not very effective.

1611. They do not limit their hours of work?—Yes, they do sometimes, and they strike now and then, as they do in other places.

1612. *Chairman.*] Have they sick clubs?—Yes; nearly all the men belong to sick clubs.

1613. Do the proprietors subscribe to those clubs?—No.

1614. Do you know of any cases in which a colliery has been stopped, and the workmen who have been left behind have become a burden upon the parish?—No; I scarcely know of any colliery having been exhausted.

1615. Where collieries are worked, are they found to benefit the neighbourhood in which they are situated?—No doubt they do.

1616. The agriculturists are few there?—Yes.

1617. Are they in some way or other mixed up with, or interested in, the mining operations that are carried on?—No, I do not think they have much to do with the mines; but there is no doubt that they are greatly benefited by them, for they create a market for their produce. If you go out of a mining into the purely agricultural part of the South Wales district, you find that the agriculturists are immensely benefited by the mining district.

1618. Do the agriculturists ever complain in any way of the rates which they have to pay?—No; I never heard of any complaints being made by them; they derive enormous benefit from the mines, and they are always glad to see them established.

1619. They do not complain that the mines are not rated, do they?—No, I never heard them make any complaints of that kind.

1620. You say there are some lead mines in your district?—Yes.

1621. Are they rated at all?—No.

1622. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Have you always contended at the quarter sessions that the sum for which a coalmine ought to be rated is the rent for which it would let, deducting the royalty?—Yes, deducting the royalty, and a great many other things, such as would be deducted in the case of a manufactory.

1623. Would you deduct the royalty in addition to the ordinary deductions which are made from the gross rent?—Yes.

1624. Have the quarter sessions generally acted upon that view?—I do not know that I ought to say that; I have always got the rate reduced, and that is the principle upon which I have contended that there should be a reduction.

1625. Mr. *Williams.*] I think you said just now that you did not see any reason why ironstone should not be rated, as well as coals?—Yes, I did say so.

1626. And I understood you to say also, that you considered it a hardship that the black band should not be rated to the poor?—Yes.

1627. Do you consider that coals and iron should be proportionably rated to the poor as compared with other property in the same parish?—I think there is no doubt that due allowance ought to be made.

1628. Do you consider that they should be proportionably rated, as compared to other property in the parish?—I do.

1629. Do you consider it a hardship or not upon the agriculturist, where the parish is an agricultural one, that the whole of the poor who have been produced by the working of those mines, should be thrown wholly upon the agriculturists,

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or, in other words, should the mining and iron concerns, in your opinion, maintain a fair proportion of their own poor?—I do not know that the agriculturists have much ground of complaint, so long as the mines continue in operation.

1630. I am speaking hypothetically; do you not think that the mining population should pay a fair proportion towards the expense of maintaining their own poor, or the poor created by their own works?—I think that, as a matter of abstract justice, there can be no doubt they ought; and I do not see any good reason why they should not.

1631. You spoke just now of timber; is there not this difference between timber and mines, that the mines have a population, and that the timber has not?—Workmen are required to cut down and send away the timber, in the same way that workmen are required to obtain and send away minerals; the population in the latter case is more fixed than that in the former, but for obvious reasons.

1632. Upon that ground, is there any similarity between the two cases?—Yes, in the way I have mentioned. In a mining district the value of timber is enormously increased by the mining operations that are carried on. Timber does not bring a fixed population there of itself.

1633. Does it not come under that description of property which is not reproductive within any reasonable time?—In the mining districts immense quantities of larch are grown, and that is reproduced every 20 or 25 years.

1634. Then it is only rated once in every 20 or 25 years?—No, it is not rated at all; there is a small rate paid in respect of the land on which it grows, but no rate is paid in respect of the timber when it is cut down.

1635. Do you conceive that the occupier ought always to be rated?—I think so.

1636. Do you think that the royalty should be rated, or that the rate should be upon the rental, or upon what the property would let for?—I think that the royalty ought not to be rated; I think that the net value should be taken for which it would let, and that the royalty should be deducted from the amount.

1637. In other words, you would tax the rent, and not the royalty?—Yes, I would tax the value conferred upon the mining property, by reason of the pits sunk and the machinery put upon it; that is the value, independent of the royalty; in the same way that manufactories are taxed at present.

1638. Do you not think it equitable that the proprietors of ironworks should contribute a fair share towards the rates for the maintenance of the poor, a great part of whom are brought there in consequence of the mining operations which are carried on?—I have already said that I cannot see any reason why ironstone mines should not be rated.

1639. Mr. *Foster*.] You have stated that you consider the only fair mode of assessing a colliery or ironmine would be upon its annual value to let?—Yes.

1640. Acquainted as you are with mining, has it not struck you that it would be very difficult, if not next to impossible, to ascertain with anything like accuracy the value of a mineral property?—No, not at all; there is no more difficulty in fixing the annual value of a colliery, than there is in fixing the annual value of a manufactory. It is done every day.

1641. The annual value of a colliery must altogether depend, must it not, on what is raised from it?—No doubt.

1642. And, consequently, upon the aggregate amount of labour brought to bear upon it at any particular time?—No doubt.

1643. When a colliery is opened, the mines within it which give it its value may be got out, we will say, in eight or ten years; or they may, by another system of working, be made to last for a period of 20 or 30 years?—Yes.

1644. Therefore, it would not be possible for any parties to say what would be the annual value of that colliery to let, because a person might take that colliery, and exhaust its minerals in a very short time?—The annual value per ton raised may be fixed.

1645. Has it not struck you that before that time the colliery would be worth a much larger sum to rent than it would be if, by an arrangement, the exhausting of that colliery were to extend over a much larger period?—The principle of rating which I have suggested meets the case you put; I say the rateable value would be on the ton of coal raised, so that it would depend altogether upon the quantity you did raise; then, as to the exhaustion, I say that in the case of a colliery or mine, you must not rate it in the same way as you would rate land;

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you must take into account the uncertain character of it, and also that it must be exhausted; you do expressly recognise that principle now in rating manufactories; and it is only necessary to apply it to mines.

1646. The quantity raised must, in your opinion, be an element in the assessment?—No doubt the quantity raised must be an element, because the rent in all cases must depend upon that. Suppose the case I put before, separating the royalty from the value per ton conferred upon the property by reason of the expenditure upon it; in the one case the royalty would go to the landlord, and in the other case the value per ton would go to the man who made the expenditure upon the property; in that way you would arrive at the annual value, depending on the rate per ton. You must always take into account the quantity of minerals raised, because the annual value of the property in all cases, or nearly so, depends on the quantity raised.

1647. Looking, therefore, at the uncertainty of mining, even when you have sunk down to the coal or ironstone, as the case may be, the results of the mining operations being unknown, and being only to be determined by the subsequent working, it would be next to impossible, would it not, to state the annual value in one round sum of an extensive mineral property?—You cannot state the annual value in a round sum.

1648. Therefore it must be with reference to the quantity raised?—Yes.

1649. In assessing the quantity raised, therefore, you are, in point of fact, assessing part of the fee of the estate?—No, not at all; I say you must not assess the fee.

1650. But it comes to that, does it not; if you get the mineral out of the earth, which is not reproducible, and you put a rate upon that, you are in fact rating a part of the corpus, or an integral part of the property; it is not the annual value, but it is actually that which is carried away?—But I say you must not rate the fee; you rate the works which are employed for raising the property, and you must take into account the uncertain character of those works; you must take into account the fact that they will only last for a certain time, and you must make a greater amount of deduction in the case of mining property than you would make in other cases.

1651. Great works connected with mining operations are generally rated, are they not?—Yes.

1652. Furnaces, mills, forges, engines, and so on?—Mills and forges belong to ironworks, and they are rated.

1653. They are generally found together in South Wales, are they not?—No, not always.

1654. Are they not frequently?—Frequently, but not as a rule by any means; at the ironworks they are. I thought you were speaking of a colliery.

1655. The works connected with a colliery?—Yes.

1656. Those works have no value, except as in connexion with the mines lying adjacent to them?—Yes, they might; you might bring mine from another district, and carry on your works in that way.

1657. Would not the effect of that, in all probability, be to add another to the long list of unfortunate firms which, as you have told us, have been obliged to part with their property at a very ruinous sacrifice?—No; nearly all the large works in South Wales are taking coal and ironstone from other districts for consumption in their own works; they do not themselves raise all they consume.

1658. At all events, where furnaces and works of the character I have named are attached to collieries, they do pay, independent of the mines?—No doubt.

1659. They have actually no value in themselves except for the purpose of working those mines?—I do not say that; you may have ironworks without having any mines at all. I know some ironworks now being erected without any prospect of getting a pound of mine near them; they will have to depend altogether upon ore brought from other parts.

1660. I am speaking of works which have actually been built by the proprietors of mines for the purpose of working up those mines; works erected by mineowners, or by the lessees of mines, for the purpose of working up their minerals; those particular works, in all probability, would not have been erected but for the purpose of working up the mines taken by the parties who have erected those works?—Just so.

1661. Therefore, those works in themselves, except for the purpose of con-

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verting the mineral property, have no value to those parties; they would not have been erected but for the purpose of working up the mines either owned or leased by the ironmasters?—There is no doubt at all that great numbers of works have been erected for the purpose of smelting the coal and ironstone under the property upon which they have been erected; but I do not think you can say that those works would possess no value if the minerals were exhausted.

1662. But they would not have been erected except for that purpose?—That is very likely.

1663. All those buildings on the surface are now rated, are they not?—Yes.

1664. And they pay very largely to the poor-rate already?—Yes.

1665. Therefore the rate, in fact, is paid upon the mines at present, so far as the coal is concerned, and also upon the buildings on the surface which are employed in the consumption of that coal and in the making of iron?—Yes.

1666. Therefore in any case of rating mines, you consider that a mineral or an article which is raised from the earth, and carried away and exhausted, lessening the value of that property in its process of exhaustion, ought not to be rated on the same terms as property bearing a permanent annual value?—Certainly not.

1667. Mr. *Colvile.*] I understand you to say you admit the principle that you should not rate the corpus, but the plant established for raising the ore?—Yes.

1668. With regard to leadworks, they are often worked by a single miner, are they not, with no other plant than his shovel and his pickaxe; how would you rate that leadmine?—You would rate it at what it would let for; you have conferred a value upon it by the discovery probably. If you pay your lord's dues of a twelfth or a fifteenth, and if by reason of your discoveries you can let it at a larger royalty, say a sixth or an eighth, then I say the difference ought to be rated.

1669. But in that case you are levying your rate on the corpus or fee of the soil, are you not?—I do not know that you can put it in that way; you do not increase the landlord's interest in it; it is the tenant who gets the benefit, and it is the value that is conferred by the tenant upon the property that ought to be rated.

1670. Mr. *Child.*] I understand you to say that the plant, the railways, and so on, in collieries are now rated?—In some cases they are rated separately; in some cases the rate is paid on every ton of coal raised, and there is an additional rate for the railways; but in most cases the collieries are taken as a whole, with all their ramifications, and you pay a rate per ton in respect of all these things.

1671. But there are individual cases, are there not, in which the plant is rated separately?—Yes.

1672. You say there have been great anomalies in the system of rating?—Yes.

1673. Would those anomalies which exist under the present system be increased or diminished, in your opinion, if the present system of rating were extended to miners other than those which are now rated?—Increased.

1674. The matter would not be mended at all by extending the rating to a larger area?—Not so far as South Wales is concerned.

1675. I understand you to say that you are not unfavourable to a re-modelling of the present system of rating?—Not at all.

1676. But that would involve very great changes, would it not?—Yes, very great.

1677. Mr. *Ridley.*] I think you have stated that coalmines being rated, you do not see any good reason why ironstone mines also should not be rated?—I did say so.

1678. Is there not this difference between coalmines and ironstone mines, that the coal when it is brought to the surface is at once ready for use, whereas the ironstone requires a further process before it is ready for use?—In the case of clay ironstones, that is so; in the case of the hæmatite ironstones and the Yorkshire ironstones it is not so; it is ready for use as soon as you get it; the clay ironstone requires to be exposed to the air before it is ready for use, the miner does not separate it completely from the shale; the process is to bring it out, and stack it on the surface, in order that it may be exposed to the air, so as to render it fit for use.

1679. Are there not other processes to be employed upon the ironstone before it is reduced to such a state as to be serviceable for all sorts of purposes?—No, not

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not that I know of; of course it has to go through all the manufacturing processes of calcining, and so on, before it goes into the blast furnaces.

1680. That does not apply to the case of coal?—Yes, because you coke the coal before it goes into the furnace.

1681. That is, where it is employed with the ironstone mine?—Yes.

1682. But in the case of ordinary coal which is brought up from the pit, as soon as it gets to the surface, it is ready for immediate use, is it not?—Yes; so is the ironstone, except the clay ironstone.

1683. I understand you to say you are in favour of a remodelling of the present system of rating mines; the agriculturist is rated upon a produce which is reproductive?—Yes.

1684. The produce of a mine is so much severed from the freehold, is it not?—No doubt.

1685. That is not reproducible?—No.

1686. I suppose you will state your opinion, will you not, to be that in any scheme for remodelling the present system of rating, that is a point which should be taken very largely in consideration?—No doubt you must attach due importance to it. I have already stated this as my opinion.

1687. You have said also, that, supposing a rate were put upon the lord's dues, there would be a difficulty in getting it, because in many cases the lord is not resident, or an occupier?—Yes.

1688. Where the rent or the royalty is reserved to him in kind, is he not now in the contemplation of law the occupier?—I believe that such is the law.

1689. He is now rateable?—Yes, where the dues are reserved in kind.

1690. Why should there be more difficulty in getting at him in the case of ironstone than there is in the case of coal?—The lord does not pay the rates on coal; the dues are never reserved in kind in the case of coal. I do not think that such a thing exists.

1691. But supposing the scheme were remodelled, and the rent paid to the lord in money, there would be no more difficulty, would there, in that case in rating him in respect of the ironstone than there is now in rating him in respect of the coal?—I have already stated that he is not now rated in respect of coal, and I have attempted to show that it would be unfair to rate him in respect of any minerals; the royalties reserved by the existing leases vary very much; I have already said that they vary from 1*d.* up to 18*d.* a ton for ironstone; if you were to take the royalty, you would take 1*d.* in one case, and 18*d.* in another; now the mines are equally valuable in either case, and why should one mine be rated at 18*d.* and another at 1*d.*? Then the lord is generally non-resident, and he has no voice in making the rates; the occupier can and does attend parish meetings when he thinks proper. I say that if you were to take royalties as the basis, it would create an immense amount of dissatisfaction, because royalties vary so much; and if you were to take an average, you would do very great injustice, for in many cases it would happen that the rate would be three times the amount of the royalty; the lord would pay two or three times more than the amount he was receiving.

1692. In any remodelling of the scheme of rating, you would say pending existing leases, supposing you put, according to your view, the rate upon the occupier, provision must be made that the occupier should not suffer by having a new rate imposed upon him, which did not exist at the time when he made his contract for the mine which he is now occupying?—I scarcely know how to answer that question; there is a difficulty about it; there is no doubt that it would be a hardship upon the existing lessees if you were to call upon them to pay rates upon ironstone; but I think that if the whole subject of rating were remodelled, it would be found that the rates would be much less oppressive on mining properties of all descriptions than is the case under the present law; it would be taken into account that the property is so uncertain in its character, that it is constantly being exhausted; the other points which I have mentioned would also be taken into account, and due importance being attached to all these things, it would be found that the deductions which should be made from the gross rental are very considerable indeed in order to arrive at the net rateable value. I scarcely know how to deal with the question with regard to existing leases; that is a thing which requires some consideration.

1693. But that is a matter which must be considered in any remodelling of the scheme?—No doubt it must.

1694. *Chairman.*]

1694. *Chairman.*] As I understand, you would ignore royalties as the basis on which to ground the apportionment?—Yes.

1605. On the ground that they are so variable that it would not be just to the other ratepayers to take them as the basis?—Not on that ground only; I say it would operate unjustly if you rated royalties for the reason you have mentioned; but I say further, that you must not rate them, because if you do you are rating the fee, which I take it would be unjust.

1696. You would take as a basis, the annual value of the property to let?—Precisely.

1697. Due regard being had to the variable nature of the property?—Yes.

1698. Would not that be, in so many words, a rating of the profits on mines?—No, it would not be rating the profits; it would be rating the property, taking its value to be the price for which it would let. A man, before taking it, would no doubt take into account what profits he was likely to make out of the property; in dealing with it in that way the process would be the same as it is in the case of railways and manufactories; you would first take into account the profits the thing is likely to make. Assuming that you cannot get at the annual rent paid for the property, you would have to arrive at it by means of valuations; you would take first the profits likely to be made, and then from those profits you would deduct a certain per centage in respect of capital employed in carrying on the works, and you would be entitled to make certain other deductions, the exact nature of which I cannot at this moment remember; and having made all those deductions, the person taking the property considers how much profit he expects to make, and then the difference between the gross profit and what he wants to put into his own pocket forms the rent, and that is the rateable value.

1699. What you say amounts to this, that all his calculations are based upon the possible profit both of the lessor and the lessee?—Just so; I do not see how you are to get at the rateable value without it; if you take a farm, your calculation is based upon the profit you are to derive from it.

1700. It is indirectly a poor-rate, based on the possible profits of the letting?—It is so indirectly, no doubt; but it is not more so than it is in the case of a farm; a man there takes into account what profit he shall make; he considers what ought to be his share, and what he can afford to give his landlord.

1701. You say that mining speculations in South Wales are so uncertain that where you have one case of profit you have 20 of loss; now take this case; suppose a proprietor to have two collieries in the same parish, and that by one of them he is losing 5,000*l.* a year, while by the other he is making 5,000*l.* a year; according to your view he would not be rated on one, but he would be rated on what he could let the other for; therefore he would be in the predicament that he would be paying poor-rates on 5,000*l.* a year, though, in point of fact he was not getting a farthing?—No doubt.

1702. Would that work well, do you think?—I do not see why it should not; suppose there are two manufactories in the same parish, belonging to the same person, one of them might be carried on at a loss, and the other at a profit; the poor-rate, of course, would depend upon what each manufactory would let for; it is only carrying out the same thing in regard to coal mines; you must have some basis to go upon, and I do not see what basis you can get so satisfactory as the net value for which the property will let.

1703. Have you railways in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

1704. Are they rated to the poor?—Yes.

1705. On what basis are they rated?—They are rated in the same way that everything else is rated; on profits, if you like, because you have to take into account the profits that they make to arrive at the rate; the thing is viewed as a whole, with all its ramifications.

1706. Mr. *Vivian.*] I understand your opinion to be, that ironworks are rated to the poor to fully as large an extent as they ought to be in South Wales?—I think so; I think that under the present system they are rated to the greatest amount that they will bear to be rated.

1707. So that, in your opinion, it would, of course, be both unjust and unwise to impose further rates upon them?—I think so.

1708. So that, although you consider as a theoretical question, or as a question of abstract justice, ironmines should be rated as well as coalmines, you think as a question of fact and practice, that ironmines in South Wales are already rated as highly as they can bear?—I think that, in connexion with the ironworks, they are;

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are; but I say that if you remodel the system, the rates on other things would be reduced, and would admit of the ironmines being rated. I do not think it is desirable to continue the present anomalous state of things, because it creates dissatisfaction in the mining districts.

1709. You think it would be inexpedient to add to the present rates?—Yes.

1710. And you think it would be especially inexpedient to impose an additional burden of 1 ½ *d.* a ton on Welsh mine?—Yes.

1711. *Chairman.*] Your impression is, that the mineral property, as a whole, is more than sufficiently burdened; but at the same time you think that those burdens are not fairly apportioned?—I think so.

Thomas Powell, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Powell, Esq.

1712. HOW long have you been in the coal trade?—Forty-seven years; this is the 48th year.

1713. You hold very extensive mineral leases, do you not?—A great many.

1714. And you own a great number of collieries?—I own 14 collieries, and am opening two more large ones, on which I have spent 50,000 *l.*; that is on one colliery.

1715. You work more coal, I believe, than any other man in South Wales?—Yes, I do; my daily shipments are now upwards of 2,000 tons.

1716. Do you work any ironmine?—I work a little; not much; I work a little mine with the coals that I am working in Glamorganshire.

1717. Your workings of ironmine are unimportant?—Yes; I have no ironmines; I have ironmines in my coal works which I have leased, and can work to a large extent in different works.

1718. Your collieries are situate in the same parishes, I think, as large ironmine workings, are they not?—Yes, they are.

1719. Your collieries are all rated to the poor, are they not?—Yes, they are all rated to the poor.

1720. Can you state to what amount they are rated to the poor?—I pay to the poor-rates, in every way, nearly 3,000 *l.* a year.

1721. Do you consider that just?—It has become a very serious matter now to us, since these Boards of Health have been established. All these expenses which are put upon us are frightful. I did not use to pay half the money; now it is nearly 3,000 *l.* a year that I pay to the poor-rate alone, besides the highway tax, church tax, and other rates.

1722. And they are going to make you pay a great lunatic tax shortly?—They make me pay even for the little weighing machine; every blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop, and stable; they rate them all. I have 33 engines at work night and day, and they rate them all in my works.

1723. Generally, from your knowledge of that district, do you consider it would be advisable to tax the ironmines?—I say it would be but right and just to do so; it is very unfair that they have not been rated long and long before; it is unfair to the coalowner, the landed proprietor, and every one; in my opinion it is very unjust that they should not be rated to the poor.

1724. Do you think the ironmines would bear to be taxed?—There is no doubt about it; I think they should be taxed as well as the coal; there is no reason why they should not, that I can understand.

1725. Can you state the value of ironstone generally?—Yes; the value is about 10 *s.* a ton for common ironstone; I am selling it for 10 *s.* 6 *d.*, and the Lancashire ore is 15 *s.* or 16 *s.*, delivered at Cardiff.

1726. What is the value of coal generally?—It varies from 5 *s.* 6 *d.* to 7 *s.* a ton at the pit's mouth; that is the most we can sell it for. I am not putting down the minimum price.

1727. Although ironstone is of more value than coal, ironstone is not taxed now, is it?—No, not that I know of; I have always understood it was free from tax.

1728. It has been given in evidence that the use of Welsh mine is decreasing, owing to its cost?—Yes; the use of foreign mine, red ore, Somersetshire ore, and ore from the Forest of Dean, is increasing greatly.

1729. Do you think the decrease which is taking place in the consumption of Welsh mine is owing to the expense of getting it?—No doubt, if there is

any

any decrease at all, it is owing to that; but it has decreased, because they used to patch, and now there is nothing to patch; therefore it becomes more expensive to work, and consequently the ironmasters can now buy iron mine in Somersetshire and the Forest of Dean, and in the North of England, a great deal cheaper than they can raise their own ironstone; that is a fact, I know.

1730. It has been given in evidence that it is undesirable to lay a tax on Welsh mine, because of the great expense of getting it?—I do not think that any mine should be exempt; I have no wish to be exempt myself. I do not think you could make a distinction for one county to pay rates and another not to pay; if you rate mines at all, you must rate them generally all over the three kingdoms.

1731. It has been said that the large ironworks pay very high rates to the poor already?—No doubt they do; I expect that everything is rated with them; every furnace, every blacksmith's shop, every carpenter's shop, every stable, and every shed is rated to them, as well as to me and others; but they are no worse off generally than coalowners are in that respect.

1732. But you still think they would stand a little more?—I leave you to judge as to that. Look at the rich men that there are in the iron trade, worth millions of money. I know more than one gentleman worth two millions, who has made his fortune by the iron trade; and there are many others, as you know as well as I do. I need not name the parties, but it is well known that there are many men who have made very large fortunes in the iron trade, more than is the case with the coal trade a good deal.

1733. Still there has been a little money made in the coal trade, has there not?—I do not deny that I have made a little. My friends were not born before me; I had nobody who ever gave me anything; I began the world with very little. I have been now 48 years in the coal trade, and I must have made very bad use of my time if I had not made a little.

1734. *Chairman.*] From your great experience, you come to the conclusion that it would be right, fair, and just to rate the iron mines as well as other property?—I do.

1735. Do you think that the mining property, as a whole, is over-rated?—No; the minerals are not over-rated at all.

1736. I am taking coal mines; do you think that they are over-rated?—The poor have increased greatly, and we have very great reason to complain: it is not the poor-rates altogether, though it comes under the denomination of poor-rates; but the great increase in the rates arises from the improvements that have been made by direction of the Board of Health in Glamorganshire particularly, and more particularly in Aberdare. I paid only last week 308 *l.* poor-rate.

1737. Is the working of iron mines as dangerous, or less dangerous than the working of coal?—It is not so bad as working the steam coal; working steam coal is very dangerous, unless well ventilated.

1738. However, iron mines do send a fair proportion to the poor-house?—The iron mines pay nothing.

1739. But they send a due proportion of poor to the poor-house, do they not? There are poor among the iron-miners as well as among the colliers?—There is no doubt about that.

1740. But the iron mines pay nothing towards the poor-rate?—Nothing at all.

1741. And you hold that to be very unfair?—I do; I think it is very unfair that we should not be rated all alike.

1742. Take the proprietors of iron mines and the proprietors of coal mines; do you think, upon the whole, that the proprietors of iron mines have made more money than the proprietors of coal mines?—Yes. If a man can make 100,000 *l.* in the coal trade, he is a very ingenious and clever fellow; whereas I know two or three ironmasters who have made millions in the iron trade.

1743. Some portion of their profits has arisen, has it not, from this: that while they are employing the miners, other people are paying for their poor?—Yes; but I do not deny that they pay a great deal for all their machinery, and furnaces and coal; all the coal they consume they pay for to the poor, but they no not pay for the ironstone: that is the grievance of which all the coalowners complain.

1744. Do the agriculturists also feel it to be a grievance?—It would be some little relief to them, though not a great deal; it would be in the neighbourhood of the works, and there the ores are raised, but not so great to the agriculturists

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except in the neighbourhood; it would help the neighbourhood; there is no doubt about that.

1745. Mr. *Williams.*] Is it your opinion that all mines ought to be rated?—Yes.

1746. Iron mines as well as coal mines?—Certainly; that is what I ask for; that is what I pray for, that iron should be rated.

1747. Do you think it is a hardship that the poor of the iron mines should be maintained by the agriculturists of the parish?—It falls very heavy upon the parish, no doubt; but I want to ask you, if you will allow me, whether you pay for the copper, for I think that the copper mines should be rated as well as the ironstone.

1748. You think the dues of other mines should be rated?—I do.

1749. And the dues of iron mines?—Yes; I must say, I think that your mines ought to be all rated as well as our coal; that is my opinion; all minerals, I say, should be rated, whether coal, lead, ore, or copper, or any other minerals. I would spare no one; I think we should all sail and sink or swim in the same boat.

1750. After 47 years of experience, and being one of the largest miners in the country, you think that copper and iron ore ought to be rated as well as coal?—Certainly; every mineral, I should say.

1751. Mr. *Ridley.*] You think that all minerals should be rated?—Everything.

1752. In that case, upon whom would you put the rate; upon the lessee or lessor?—Perhaps other people can give you better information than I can upon that subject; but the most proper way, perhaps, would be to rate it at the mines where the mine is raised from the earth, the same as is done in the case of coals; coal is rated at the pit's mouth; and I mean to say, it would be but fair that the mine should be rated at the pit's mouth where it is raised from the ground to the surface, and the tax paid in the parish where it is raised.

1753. Would you have the rate paid by the proprietor, or by those working the mines?—Undoubtedly by those who work the mine.

1754. *Chairman.*] By the occupier?—Yes, by the person who works the mine, in the same way as the persons who work the coal are rated. If you have a large mineral, taking iron or any other mineral, it ought to pay a tax, and should not be let go from the place where it is raised and brought to the earth without paying the duty or tax, I think.

1755. What is the average royalty upon coal?—From 6 *d.* to 1 *s.*, it varies according to the situation and quality. I pay 1 *s.* upon some of my coal mines, and 6 *d.* upon others; for some I pay 4 *d.*, for others 8 *d.*, and for others 9 *d.* and 10 *d.*; it is according to the position and situation of the coal.

1756. Are you rated to the poor on that royalty?—No, they put a royalty upon us; they send men and value it; if it is worth more than 6 *d.* they charge me 8 *d.* to 9 *d.*; what they consider to be the value.

1757. Then it is not according to the actual payment, but what they think the royalty ought to be?—Yes; it is valued by the churchwardens or overseers. I am often obliged to go before the magistrates to show the impropriety of their charges.

1758. If they fancy that the occupier has been too sharp for the proprietor, they then rate you beyond the royalty?—Yes.

1759. If, on the other hand, they fancy the proprietor has been too hard upon the occupier, then they rate you lower?—Just so; they take the value; the people in the neighbourhood know what I sell my coal for, and they value it accordingly, and upon that we are obliged to pay; we go before a magistrate sometimes and get a little relief, but not much.

1760. Mr. *Ridley.*] Do you think that all machinery in the case of Cornish mines should be rated?—Certainly, as well as coal mines or machinery; it is all rated; as I told you just now, I have 34 engines at work, and they are all rated; my boilers, and everything they can put a value on, are all rated; it comes so heavy upon me that it amounts to upwards of 3,000 *l.* a year; it came so excessive upon me, that I meant to memorialise the Government myself upon the subject lately, until I heard of this inquiry, and then I volunteered my evidence, if you thought fit to hear it.

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1761. Mr. *Vivian.*] YOU are one of the chief agents of the Dowlais Iron Company?—Yes.

1762. That is the largest iron concern in South Wales, is it not?—Yes.

1763. How long have you held the position you now occupy in that concern?—I have held my present position about a year, but I have been connected with the Dowlais Ironworks about six years.

1764. Previous to that, you had had considerable experience in mining operations?—Yes; I have had 14 years' experience in the South Wales district.

1765. So that you are acquainted with the South Wales district generally?—Perfectly, as regards ironworks.

1766. What quantity of iron do the Dowlais Ironworks produce?—We are making at the rate of 80,000 tons of finished iron in the year.

1767. Can you state what quantity of mine you are using to produce that?—We use of what we call Welsh mine, distinguishing it from red ore, about 140,000 tons per annum.

1768. And how much red ore, or foreign mine, do you use?—We are using about 90,000 tons, from 80,000 to 90,000 tons of foreign mine.

1769. What is the produce of the Welsh mine?—It yields about 23 per cent., on an average; I would say, not above 23.

1770. Consequently, not quite half your make is derived from Welsh mine?—Much less.

1771. Can you state generally the produce of the foreign mine?—Fifty per cent.; it may be taken roughly as yielding that. When I speak of iron produced, I speak of finished iron; that is, rails and bars; of course we lose a great deal in yield from the pig.

1772. Is it not a fact, that not very many years ago the whole of the iron produced at Dowlais was derived from Welsh mine?—It was so.

1773. And that no foreign ores were imported at all?—Certainly.

1774. To what cause do you attribute the decrease in the consumption of Welsh mine?—I attribute it to the great expense of getting it.

1775. Can you state to the Committee what amount of Welsh mine was consumed by the Dowlais Iron Company, say 20 years ago?—You may take it roughly that the get of Welsh mine in Welsh works is nearly stationary, and has been so for the last 10 or 20 years; we are actually getting as much Welsh mine now as we ever were.

1776. But standing still in this age is generally considered equivalent to going back, is it not?—We think so.

1777. Then to what do you attribute the want of increase in the production of Welsh mine?—To the great expense of getting it; in fact, it would be impossible to make the quantity of iron we now make, if we manufactured it from Welsh mine.

1778. It would be impossible to aise such a quantity of Welsh mine as to produce the quantity of iron you now make?—Quite so; we use it for the purpose of giving quality; we should not use the Welsh mine if we could get quality without it, but unfortunately we cannot.

1779. So that it is of great public utility?—Certainly; in fact, in my opinion the Welsh trade depends to a great extent upon the character imparted to the iron by the Welsh mine.

1780. Mr. *Child.*] They must have a mixture of ores?—Just so.

1781. Mr. *Vivian.*] In your judgment would the Welsh mine bear any increase of burden?—Certainly not.

1782. Are you able to state what the royalty is, that is paid by the Dowlais Iron Company on Welsh mine?—Yes; 4 *d.* a ton.

1783. And what royalty on coal do they pay?—Ninepence.

1784. Why was the royalty made so low on Welsh mine, and so high on coal?—Because, Welsh mine is difficult and expensive to get; our Welsh mine costs us 14 *s.* a ton.

1785. The old rule in South Wales was, was it not, that the royalty on mine and on coal should be the same?—Yes; some of the old leases were drawn on the principle of an equality between mine and coal, and in those days it was fair.

1786. In the later leases, the royalty on coal has been increased, has it not, and

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and the royalty on mine decreased?—Yes; because coal is become more valuable of late years, in consequence of the increased demand for shipping; while the Welsh mine has not increased in value, but on the contrary, has decreased.

1787. Then it was considered expedient, with all the knowledge possessed by the Bute trustees, when they granted that lease, to place a very low royalty upon iron?—Yes; upon no other terms would Sir John Guest have renewed the lease, I believe.

1788. Supposing that even a 1 *d.* a ton were imposed upon that mine by way of poor-rate, do you consider that that imposition would lead to a decrease in the production of Welsh mine?—No doubt it would, and it would be most unfair upon the works; so much so, I think, that if the Bute trustees had increased it to 5 *d.* instead of 4 *d.*, the Dowlais Company would not have renewed the lease.

1789. And then the whole great Dowlais concern would have fallen to the ground?—Most likely, as it would have been a very serious tax upon it.

1790. I presume therefore you consider that the Legislature should pause before it placed any such burden upon works of the character of the Dowlais Work?—Yes; I have a very strong feeling upon that subject; I think it would be monstrous to impose on the Dowlais Company a tax like a 1 *d.* a ton, they having taken a lease for 60 years upon the faith that the present system of rating would remain unaltered.

1791. Do you consider that the large ironworks in your district have been remunerative undertakings during the past few years?—Certainly not; no manufacturing concerns in England pay so small a return for the capital invested as Welsh ironworks.

1792. I think that the abandonment of the Dowlais Works was contemplated by Sir John Guest, was it not?—It was very seriously contemplated, I believe.

1793. The plant, in the shape of tram plates and so on, was to a great extent worked up, was it not?—It was; at the expiration of the lease.

1794. And fresh winnings were not made as they otherwise would have been?—Yes.

1795. That was owing to the terms demanded by the late Lord Bute, was it not?—Yes.

1796. Can you state what amount of capital has been invested by the Dowlais Iron Company in placing their concern in a position to be carried on?—I would say, roughly speaking, that the present value of the plant, the value of the works, and the capital invested in the concern, is pretty nearly a million of money.

1797. That has been invested upon the faith of the continuance of the present system of rating?—Most distinctly.

1798. Can you state to what extent the Dowlais Iron Company are rated to the poor?—Yes; when I say rated to the poor, I mean rated to the Board of Health and other taxes. I can give you the exact figures; they were rated to the poor in the sum of 2,577 *l.* last year, which was very low. The Board of Health, highway rates, and other local rates, were 1,618 *l.*

1799. Making a total of 4,295 *l.*?—Yes.

1800. Do I understand you to say that that was the sum on which they were rated, or that that was the sum they paid as rates?—Those are the sums they paid as rates; they were rated on 22,163 *l.*

1801. What was the basis of that rating?—Every ton of coal we raise is rated at 7 ½ *d.*, and on mine raised in patches 7 ½ *d.*. We were able to raise a very small quantity in patches. On limestone 2 *d.* a ton. Our blast furnaces are rated at 363 *l.* 10 *s.* each; that includes all the machinery necessary beyond the furnace for manufacturing the material into rails.

1802. That includes mills, does it?—Yes, it includes mills.

1803. Do you consider that in that rating per blast furnace, the transactions of that furnace form the basis of the rating?—Yes.

1804. Is the mine used in that furnace an essential portion of the transactions of the furnace?—Certainly.

1805. So that in truth that rating of 363 *l.* 10 *s.* per blast furnace, includes the mine worked, which is thereby indirectly rated?—I believe so.

1806. Do you consider that the Dowlais Iron Company pay their fair proportion of the rates generally of the parish?—I think they do; they pay one-eighth of the whole rates.

1807. In what parish is Dowlais situate?—In the parish of Merthyr; they also pay a large portion of the Gellygare rates.

1808. Do they rate mine in the parish of Gellygare?—Yes, raised in patches.

1809. But on the coal they raise in the parish of Gellygare they pay all the rates?—We raised 269,000 tons in the parish of Gellygare last year, upon which we were rated at 7½*d.*

1810. What proportion does that bear to the total rates of the parish?—I am unable to say; a very large preportion.

1811. Do you conceive it to be nearly all?—It must be a very large proportion; it is an agricultural parish, and there are very few inhabitants.

1812. In the parish of Merthyr what proportion do the ironworks pay of the poor-rates?—Speaking roughly, I should say they pay, as nearly as possible, half the rates.

1813. What proportion in respect of house property?—I am not exactly sure of that; but the other half is paid on house and other rateable property.

1814. Is there any agricultural land at Merthyr?—I think there is hardly a plough in the parish; I never saw one.

1815. So that, directly and indirectly, the whole rates of the parish of Merthyr are paid by the ironworks?—Most decidedly; they depend entirely upon the ironworks.

1816. I need scarcely ask whether the house property in the parish of Merthyr does not entirely depend upon the ironworks?—Of course.

1817. So that anything calculated to damage the ironworks would be calculated to depreciate the value of the house property?—Distinctly.

1818. *Chairman.*] Are there any ironworks there distinct from coalworks?—No.

1819. Are those ironworks making profits or not?—They make very small profits; at the present price of iron we are all losing.

1820. Do you think it fair that coalworks should be rated, and that ironworks should not be rated?—The ironworks are rated upon their coal; the Dowlais Company raise their own coal and their own mine, upon their own taking.

1821. And the proprietors of the one are proprietors of the other also?—Distinctly.

1822. Suppose such a case as frequently occurs, where in the same district you have two properties, a coal property and a mine property, and the proprietors are distinct, do you think it would be fair that the coal should pay to the poor-rate, and that the mine should be perfectly free?—No, I do not.

1823. On the whole, taking the rates that are put on mineral property, you think it is over-taxed at present?—I think so.

1824. But you would not object to a remodelling of the whole system of rating?—No; I think it would be of great service.

1825. You think that at present the anomalies are great?—Very great.

1826. And inconvenient?—Very inconvenient.

1827. Leading to great disputes?—Yes.

1828. In fact, the acutest and cleverest man who pays the most attention to the subject, and who is perhaps the most troublesome man in the district, pays the lowest rates?—Yes.

1829. And that state of things you think ought not to be?—I think not.

1830. With regard to the quarter sessions and the petty sessions, have you many appeals?—The Dowlais Company have had, I think, several from time to time.

1831. The Dowlais Company has got an immense capital invested in the works; a million of money, I understand you to say?—Yes.

1832. Is it a profitable investment at present?—At present we are making no profits: that is, taking iron at the present price. I say advisedly, that the Welsh ironworks, having regard to the amount of capital invested, is unremunerative; in fact, we are giving away our property.

1833. But it always has happened during the last 50 years, has it not, that you have had perious of great losses, and then periods of enormous gains?—The conditions are different. Sir John Guest had a lease of the Dowlais property for something like 100 *l.* a year; a portion of it was sublet, and that brought in 5,000 *l.* a year; we are now paying 20,000 *l.* a year.

1834. As royalty?—As royalty.

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1835. When the property was let for a royalty of 100 *l.* a year, how was it rated to the poor?—The same as it is now.

1836. That is upon the quantity raised?—Yes.

1837. Not according to the royalty paid?—Not according to the royalty paid; the royalty is not an element in the calculation at all, and ought not to be.

1838. The element is the quantity of material brought to the surface?—The quantity of material brought to the surface is a convenient mode of measuring the rateable value of the property, but it is merely a convenient mode of measuring it; and upon no other principle than that which I have stated ought the property, in my opinion, to be rated.

1839. At present, you are rated to the poor in a ratio to the number of tons raised, are you not?—Yes.

1840. Are you rated at the full tonnage?—Yes; but the royalty has nothing to do with the sum upon which we are rated: in our neighbourhood some owners pay 6 *d.* royalty, and they are rated on 7½ *d.* We pay 9 *d.*, unfortunately, though we are rated on 7½ *d.*

1841. They rate you at what they think you ought to pay for your royalty?—I think the royalty has nothing to do with it. If I understand the principle of rating, it is the rent a colliery or an ironwork would fetch; what it is worth any man's while to give for it.

1842. That is based, of course, upon the returns?—Yes. I think the quantity made must be the measure of the rating, as I have said before.

1843. Then it comes back to the royalty after all?—If so, it is unfair, as between the ironworks and the colliery. Looking at the capital invested in a colliery, Mr. Powell's colliery, for instance, I have no doubt that he makes double the profit on a ton of coal that any ironmaster in South Wales does, using the coal to make iron; therefore he ought to be rated higher.

1844. You talked of 363 *l.* for every blast furnace; of course that must be based upon something. Is that the quantity of coal consumed, or upon what is that calculation based?—It is based on the quantity of iron made in each blast furnace; it is an arrangement made several years ago; the whole thing was then gone into. It was supposed to be an equitable arrangement, and goes on now. All the works are rated at so much per blast furnace.

1845. What I understand you to say is this: that, taking the payments made by the proprietors of mineral property as a whole, they are far more than they ought to pay for poor-rates; but that the arrangement of payments is very bad and very indefinite, and that it ought to be remedied?—I think so.

1846. What is the present price of rails?—£. 6. 15. per ton at the works.

1847. What is the present price of pigs?—The price of pigs may be taken at about 3 *l.*; they vary very much, but we have pigs in Wales selling at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* a ton; it depends upon the quality.

1848. You were talking of the quantity of mine raised in Wales of late years; the supply of metal from Wales has much increased, has it not?—Yes.

1849. But the quantity of mine raised in South Wales has been nearly at a stand-still for a number of years, has it not?—Yes.

1850. It may be taken roughly to be now at a stand-still?—Yes.

1851. The excess is made up by the introduction of foreign ore?—Yes.

1852. Is that foreign ore to be obtained at a less cost than your own ore, or is it that you find that the mixture of foreign ore with your native ore makes a better iron?—No; unfortunately it is the other way; it does not do that, for it deteriorates the iron; there is no iron in the kingdom that ranks as to quality with iron made from pure Welsh mine.

1853. Though the produce per cent. may be much less than the hematite?—Yes; the hematite ore is introduced for this purpose; it is cheaper; that is, we make pigs from it cheaper. It increases the make by the blast furnaces, and enables us to do a large amount of business; whereas if we confined ourselves to Welsh ore, owing to its great expense, the works would be shut up.

1854. Does the hematite act as a sort of flux to the other?—It yields from 50 to 60 per cent., and it takes a smaller quantity of coal to smelt it.

1855. But the quality of the iron is not improved by the mixture of red ore, is it?—No, quite the contrary.

1856. But

1856. But you can turn out a larger quantity of iron?—Yes, we can turn out a larger quantity of iron.

1857. Mr. *Foster*.] I think you were asked whether the system of rating mines would not be more equitable if in the case of a worker of coal and a worker of ironstone being separated and divided, they each bore their particular share of the rate?—I think, in that case, it would be fair.

1858. But in that case, assuming that you rate the mineral, would it be fair to rate the blast furnaces and plant in the same manner as they are now rated?—Of course not.

1859. Therefore, in the present system of rating ironworks, furnaces, forges, mills, engines, and so forth, you are virtually rating the mine plant; you are rating that which is of no value if detached from the mine plant?—Most distinctly.

1860. Therefore, in the event of rating mines, a very considerable change would be necessary in the mode of assessing the value of the plant?—Certainly.

1861. Which is, in fact, an encumbrance; you would be rather glad to effect all you have to do without that plant; that plant is an element of great cost and expense, and so far from being profitable it enters very largely into the cost of the article?—Certainly.

1862. And is actually a deteriorating property, equal with the exhaustion of the mine, in fact?—Yes.

1863. The value of the plant as the mine attached to it is in the process of exhaustion, is also gradually becoming of less value?—Of course it is worthless as soon as the mine is exhausted.

1864. The plant of a work is in itself worthless except as attached to the mineral?—Yes.

1865. The mineral being exhausted in 999 cases out of 1,000, the value of the plant is virtually gone?—You may take that as a fact. I may explain with reference to the answer I gave just now, that when I said I thought it would be fair that a mine worked separate from coal should be rated the same as coal, I meant putting the case in that way as between the worker of the mine and the worker of the coal; but the moment you make iron of it, then do not rate the mine, because you rate the furnace in which you make it.

1866. Do you think that assessing a mine is a matter of simplicity or of difficulty?—I think it is a matter of very great difficulty.

1867. Do you see any mode in your own mind of coming to a really satisfactory conclusion as to the proper mode of rating mine?—I do not; I should tell you that I have not given the subject, as regards the working of the law, much attention; I look more to its effect upon the trade.

1868. You have not formed in your own mind any opinion as to the reason why the framers of the poor law exempted mines?—I have not.

1869. The mine itself is in a very unfinished state until it is dealt with in the subsequent smelting processes?—Certainly; it is valueless.

1870. That is, it is valueless until it is smelted?—Until it is smelted.

1871. Do you think that when it came to be dealt with in its future stages in the shape of smelting works, and the plant and buildings which would necessarily be erected thereupon, it would then be made to bear its shareof the poor-rate?—It does virtually bear its share of the poor-rate now.

1872. And it may have been possibly the intention of the framers of the Act that it should be so?—It may have been.

1873. But now an alteration being made, and the raw material being made liable to the poor-rate, you think there should be a very considerable change made in the mode of assessing all that costly plant which has been put up solely for the purpose of smelting and making valuable that which otherwise is worthless?—Yes; and you must also have a different system of rating coal; at present coal is most unfairly rated.

1874. Do you see any feasible and fair mode of rating mine?—I do not.

1875. It must always be dealt with as between the workers of the mine and those parish authorities who have the settling of these questions on the give-and-take principle as now, and you do not see how the system could be brought into one narrow focus?—I do not

1876. Has the present mode of rating any reason in it, that you can see; you say you are rated on your coal now at 7 *d.* a ton?—Seven pence halfpenny.

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1877. Do you see any reason why 7 ½ *d.* a ton should be fixed upon instead of some other sum?—The 7 ½ *d.* means this: that after you have sunk your pits, and opened your colliery, somebody would come and give you 7 *d.* or 7 ½ *d.* a ton for leave to work your coal; that is, that for every ton of coal raised, somebody would give you 7 ½ *d.*

1878. You are giving them the use of that upon which you have laid out your money?—Yes; and I receive that as a return for the capital I have laid out in sinking the pits, erecting the machinery, and so on; that is how I look at it; I look upon it in the same way as where you build a house; if you build a house, and a man gives you 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* a year for it, you rate it accordingly.

1879. The cost of getting the coal varies very materially?—Yes, very much.

1880. What is a profitable bargain, therefore, in one case, adopting 7 ½ *d.* as an arbitrary standard, might be very unprofitable, and even ruinous, in another case?—Certainly; a man taking the Dowlais coal at 7 ½ *d.* a ton, would lose a fortune in a year; whereas in other cases, he might give 15 *d.*, and make a fortune.

1881. It depends a good deal, I suppose, upon the quantity of the coal, and upon its being more or less easily worked?—Yes; it depends, of course, upon the thickness of the seam. There are a great many elements entering into the question as to the cost of working coal.

1882. So that dealing even with coal is a matter which is attended with considerable difficulty?—Very great difficulty.

1883. And extending it to iron and other minerals would not lessen those difficulties?—Most assuredly it would increase them.

1884. Mr. *Child.*] I understand you to say, you consider that the rate laid upon furnaces and forges may be taken as an equivalent for the rate upon the mine?—I look upon it so.

1885. You are importers of foreign ore, are you not?—Yes.

1886. I suppose the cheapness or thickness of the ore or import is an element in the profits you make?—Yes.

1887. And the same thing, I suppose, applies to the coal which you use in smelting those foreign ores?—Yes.

1888. If mines were taxed, of course the price of mine must be increased?—Certainly.

1889. Then the price that you would give for your foreign ore would be increased, and unless you could obtain a higher price for the iron which you make, that would diminish the value of the coal which you use to consume the foreign ore?—Yes.

1890. So that the question of rating mines elsewhere, as well as in your own parish, is a matter of considerable importance to you?—Yes.

1891. Mr. *Vivian.*] If your mine were rated, what would be the increase in the rates per annum to the Dowlais Iron Company?—If our red ore and Welsh mine were rated on the same principle as our coal, it would be 1,500 *l.* a year.

1892. That is not the rateable value, but you would pay that amount?—Yes; we should pay 1,500 *l.* a year more out of pocket than we pay now.

1893. Mr. *Foster.*] At present you think you pay quite enough?—Quite enough.

1894. *Chairman.*] As you pay nearly the whole of the rate, it makes very little difference whether you pay upon the coal or upon the ironstone, does it?—I was speaking of Gellygare parish; in Merthyr parish the ironworks pay one-half of the rates, and Dowlais pays about one-fourth of that, so that we pay about one-eighth of the rate.

John Nixon, Esq., called in; and Examined.

John Nixon, Esq.

1895. Mr. *Vivian.*] I THINK you are Proprietor of large Steam Coal Collieries in South Wales?—I am.

1896. Are they situate in the parish of Aberdare?—In Aberdare and Llanwinno.

1897. Are there iron mines worked in those parishes?—Yes; iron mines are not only worked by the ironmasters themselves, but there are other parties who work the ironstone, and sell it to the ironmasters.

1898. Are those rated to the poor?—They are not.

1899. Are your coal mines rated to the poor?—Yes.

1900. Do you consider that the iron mines ought to be rated to the poor?—I think they ought to bear the burden equally with coal mines.

1901. It has been stated in evidence before this Committee that the consumption of Welsh mine is not increasing in South Wales, while the production of iron from foreign ore is very largely increasing, owing to the expense of getting Welsh mine; can you state whether that is the fact?—There is no doubt that Welsh mine is very expensive to work; they have been working by patching or open work, but now they are obliged to drive levels or galleries. As you come down from the crop the strata become harder, and the mine is consequently more expensive to work.

1902. Do you consider that mines which are so situated would bear an increase of rating?—I should think so. The same thing applies equally almost to coal property; the more the workings get to the deep, the more expensive they are, and the more difficult the mining operations become. I do not see any great difference between the one case and the other; there must be an increase in the expense in either case, as you go from the surface to the deep.

1903. Do you consider that Welsh mine might bear a proportion of the rate?—Certainly. The parties are working it to a profit now, and they are selling it to the ironmasters. I know one particular instance, in which the black band, a valuable local deposit, is worked by one individual in the parish; he is the fortunate man; no other person but he has the black band; he is working that out of the same pit out of which he works his coal. His neighbours have not got this black band; and yet when any of his workmen become chargeable to the parish, they of course must contribute to their support.

1904. Is that in the parish of Gellygare?—Yes.

1905. Is that a common occurrence, or is it an exceptional case?—The black band is so exceedingly irregular that it is an exceptional case; no one else has this black band except the one gentleman I speak of.

1906. In the parish of Aberdare there are parties, are there not, who work the common argillaceous Welsh mine, and sell it to the ironmasters?—Yes; Messrs. Thomas and Joseph have been working the argillaceous Welsh mine for some time; they have had a contract with the Dowlais Company, and have been supplying them for the last two or three years. In both the instances I have mentioned the ironstone is taken out of the parish to another parish; it is not consumed in the parish, but is taken to adjoining parishes to be consumed in the ironworks.

1907. Can you state what amount you pay to the poor?—I cannot exactly state; I should think it is probably from 250 *l.* to 300 *l.* a year; I cannot exactly state; I should say upwards of 200 *l.*

1908. Is iron mining of a more uncertain character than coal mining?—Not argillaceous ironstone; it is as regular as the coal itself.

1909. The beds are interstratified?—Yes; in fact, the section is almost as regular as the coal itself.

1910. *Chairman.*] You have spoken of the black band as being very profitable; are there many hands employed upon that work?—A good number.

1911. Are you at all aware what number of hands are employed upon it?—I think they have been working about 100 tons a day; perhaps 150 men may be employed.

1912. If an accident should occur to any one of those 150 men, he and his family would be immediately thrown upon the parish, would they not?—Yes.

1913. And the parties who have got the black band would not pay a farthing towards their maintenance?—No.

1914. The burthen of maintaining them would fall on the coalowners, who are already heavily taxed?—Yes.

1915. What is the relative profit made by iron and coal beds?—I should fancy that there is more profit derived from working this black band than is derived from any coal in the district.

1916. I am not speaking of that one particular profitable mine, but looking to the whole district in which mine and coal are worked, is as much profit made out of the mine as is made out of the coal or not?—I should think there is; I do not see why there should not be.

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1917. Then it comes to this; there are two parties speculating in the same district, and calling in miners to work for them, and one party pays for the poor of both?—There is no doubt that that is so.

1918. That you conceive not to be quite fair or equitable, do you not?—I should say it is not.

1919. Is there much agriculture in that district?—No, we are hardly an agricultural district; the country is very mountainous.

1920. You can see no reason, as far as your experience, which is considerable, goes, why one kind of mine should be exempt and another kind of mine should be chargeable?—I cannot; I do not see the fairness of it.

1921. It is not, in your opinion, either just or right?—No.

1922. Mr. *Foster*.] Are you satisfied with the principle on which rates on coal mines are assessed?—It is very difficult to say what is the principle. In the north of England they are rated upon so much per annum, on a certain valuation, and in Wales it is very different; we are rated at per ton.

1923. Are you aware whether the annual sum is fixed upon, in the north, with reference to the quantities produced annually or otherwise?—I should fancy that the rating is in proportion to the quantities produced.

1924. But it is impossible, from the nature of coal, is it not, to use the word "rent" with reference to it?—No doubt.

1925. It is altogether a fallacy?—It is taking away the material; it is taking away part of the estate; it is not reproduced; no doubt there is a difficulty in the matter.

1926. Therefore the whole question as to rating mines is a very difficult one; and altogether the system of rating is in a very unsatisfactory state?—There is no doubt of it.

1927. And you do not see any means of rendering it less unsatisfactory?—I think it would be less unsatisfactory if we were all rated alike.

1928. Mineral property being the corpus of an estate, and being taken away, do you think it is an article in itself calculated to be rated at an annual value at all?—I have no doubt of this, that we always shall be rated; there cannot be a doubt that if we bring a large population together, we must support them in some way.

1929. If iron mines should be brought under the operation of the Act, will not the same difficulties and anomalies present themselves in respect of them as now exist in the case of coal?—Yes; I think that what you say with regard to that is right; but still I think it is unfair to rate the coal, and not to rate the iron mine, if they are both worked on adjoining properties, or perhaps on the same estate.

1930. And that I understand you more particularly applies when the iron mine is sent out of the parish to be worked elsewhere?—Certainly it bears harder upon the parish when it is sent out of the parish, but at the same time I think it is unfair that the ironstone should be exempt, and the coal mine be made to pay under any circumstances.

1931. Though you are aware that when the ironstone is raised, and under ordinary circumstances smelted where it is raised, the furnaces, the blowing apparatus, and all the paraphernalia of the ironwork become chargeable at present?—They become chargeable to a certain extent, but I do not think they pay in the same proportion.

1932. Still 350 *l.* a year for a blast furnace is a pretty considerable item, is it not?—Certainly it is.

1933. *Chairman*.] If you have no agriculturists in your parish, and if these mines were not rated at all to the poor, what would become of your poor after you have used them up?—They must be sent out of the district, I suppose.

1934. You have been speaking of the plant and so on in iron mines; you have certain plant in coal mines, have you not?—Yes.

1935. And that plant is rated independently of the other rating?—In some instances it is, not in every instance.

1936. In some instances you pay the poor-rate on the royalties and also on the plant?—Yes.

1937. In the case of iron mines, you pay simply on the plant, and not on the royalties?—Yes; and in the instance I allude to there is scarcely any plant to pay upon; it is worked by a level.

1938. Where

1938. Where this rich black band is, what is the actual rating for the plant? —I do not recollect. *John Nixon*, Esq.

1939. It is something very small?—Yes; it is merely nominal. 19 June 1857.

1940. Therefore the most profitable part of the mining in that neighbourhood is entirely exempt?—Yes.

1941. Which you think is not fair or just?—No.

Martis, 23° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. G. H. Cavendish.	Mr. Kendall.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. W. O. Foster.	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. Hume.	Mr. Michael Williams.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

William Currey, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1942. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you by profession?—I am a Solicitor, of Old Burlington-street, London. *W. Currey*, Esq. 23 June 1857.

1943. Are you agent to any parties owning large mineral property?—Yes; I am auditor for the Duke of Devonshire who owns large mineral property.

1944. Is that scattered over different parts of England?—Yes.

1945. Where are the largest?—The largest are in Yorkshire.

1946. What are the principal mines in Yorkshire?—The Grassington mines, in the West Riding.

1947. What description of mines are they?—Lead mines.

1948. In what parish is the largest mine situated?—In the parish of Linton.

1949. Do you yourself go there frequently?—Yes; I have been there frequently.

1950. Your duties are not confined to the simple working of the mines, but to the arrangement of the mineral property?—I have the general superintendence of the mineral and all other property of the Duke's.

1951. In the district of which you are speaking the Duke has not much property I believe, other than his mining property?—No, not in the immediate district.

1952. Has he the surface as well as the royalty?—He is lord of the manor. The mines are worked upon waste land.

1953. Of what do his manorial rights consist?—The mineral rights and the sporting rights.

1954. The pasturage rights do not belong to him?—They belong to the commoners, of which the Duke is one.

1955. How long has that property belonged to the Duke of Devonshire?—A great many years; it is an old family property.

1956. Is it a large parish?—Linton is a large parish; Grassington is a township.

1957. Is it, generally speaking, an agricultural parish, or not?—Yes.

1958. How long has this mine been working?—For a great number of years; I have seen papers relating to it upwards of 100 years old.

1959. Is it worked by the proprietor himself?—It is worked by the Duke himself.

1960. He takes the whole risk?—The whole risk.

1961. Has it been a risk the last few years?—Not for many years.

1962. Has it been a profitable concern?—Very profitable.

1963. Have you any objection to say what the profits of that mine are?—They vary from year to year; of late from 12,000*l.* to 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.* a year; but that is only for the last few years.

1964. Are there any mines in the same parish not belonging to him?—Yes, some small mines.

1965. Are they worked by the proprietors or by companies?—By companies.

1966. Those companies paying a certain royalty?—Yes.

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1967. What royalty do they generally pay?—The royalties vary; about a thirteenth is a common royalty.

1968. And are they generally paying concerns, or not?—I am not able to speak to them generally; there is one in the neighbourhood of Grassington which is not a paying concern, I believe.

1969. What is the depth of your mine?—That I cannot say: the Duke's mineral agent is here, who will be able to give you the details, if that should be considered desirable.

1970. Do you know anything as to the whole rating of the parish?—No.

1971. The mine is not rated to the poor, is it?—No, the mine is not rated to the poor.

1972. Do you contribute in any way at all to the maintenance of the poor?—No further than this, that the mine is worked in a liberal way; the poor people are employed to a greater extent than they would be if the mines were worked by individuals less wealthy than the Duke.

1973. Have you any clubs there?—There is a club there.

1974. Is that supported by the Duke at all?—The Duke contributes to it; but there is so much employment for the people there, that there is not so much necessity for a club in that district as there is in some others.

1975. Are you aware whether the nature of lead workings is such as to impair health?—Certainly it is.

1976. Are the men who work at it delicate and short-lived?—Yes, they are.

1977. Are their wages such as to enable them to save, or do they, in fact, save much money?—That I am not able to say.

1978. You do not know whether, as a class, they are provident or improvident?—The Grassington people, I believe, are not improvident as a class.

1979. Are their wages very high?—No, not very high.

1980. Then they have not much means of saving money?—No.

1981. And they are early deprived of health and the power to labour?—Yes, and of life unfortunately, particularly at Grassington.

1982. Then they must leave a great many widows and children unprovided for?—That may be the case.

1983. They marry there pretty early, I suppose, as they do elsewhere?—Probably.

1984. Then the poor-rate must be heavy there?—That I cannot speak to.

1985. Is it an agricultural parish?—Yes.

1986. Are the farms there large or small generally?—They are moderate-sized farms I believe.

1987. What do you consider a moderate-sized farm; what is the average rental?—I call from 60 to 70 acres a moderate-sized farm.

1988. At how much per acre do they generally let?—The rents there are pretty good; the land is good as grass land.

1989. Do they occupy little farms of 100*l.* a year, and so on?—Yes; but there are, I believe, a good many freeholders in the neighbourhood; there are no very large landed proprietors.

1990. Are the freeholders connected with the mines in any way?—No, not that I am aware of.

1991. But those freeholders who are not connected with the mines in any way pay the whole of the poor-rates, do they not?—Yes.

1992. Do they ever complain of that at all?—I never heard of any complaints.

1993. Do the farmers send their teams to work at the mines, or are they benefited in any way by the mines?—The employment given by the mines tends, no doubt, to keep up the value of the property in the district.

1994. To any large extent?—Yes, to a considerable extent.

1995. Would there be a market for their produce if there were no mines there?—No; at least there would not be nearly so good a market as there is.

1996. There is no railway, is there, to convey their produce elsewhere?—No; Grassington is situate about 10 miles from the nearest town, and over hilly roads; Skipton, which is 10 miles off, is the nearest town.

1997. Can you state whether the mode of working is expensive or not?—It is not particularly expensive, as far as I can judge.

1998. Have you any idea of the number of men employed upon that especial property, where you have a net revenue of nearly 16,000*l.* a year?—No; but all those details will be furnished to the Committee by the Duke's mineral agent.

1999. What

1999. What is the next largest mining property that you have?—The next largest, I think, are the iron mines in Staveley parish; there are no other mines of the Duke at all of the magnitude of the Grassington mines.

2000. If I understood you rightly before, you said that although there is a profit of 16,000*l.* a year, although the mining operations are such as to curtail life very largely, although the occupation is an unhealthy occupation, and therefore brings much more poor on the rates, yet still in no way, after these men's lives have been lost, or after their lives have been shortened, do these mines contribute to the maintenance of the poor so occasioned?—The mines do not contribute directly to the maintenance of the poor, but they keep up the value of the property in the district, and enable the farmers to pay their rates better than they otherwise would; and with respect to the large incomes derived from the mines, it is right I should state, that taking the average of years, the profit would not only be very considerably reduced, but it might disappear altogether. If I went into a calculation of the money spent from the commencement, I think that might very probably be found to be the result, because these mines, up to about 20 years ago, were in the hands of adventurers, all of whom abandoned them as worthless. After expending upon them very large sums of money, they gave them up.

2001. You are speaking of the adventurers immediately prior to the Duke?—Yes.

2002. Were there any adventurers before who made a large sum of money?—No.

2003. There never was a company before?—Yes, there were several companies.

2004. Had they all leases?—Whether leases were actually given I cannot say, but the adventurers had grants of the liberty of working, and they all abandoned the mines, up to about 20 years ago; and the Duke himself was on the point of abandoning them also, when a favourable turn took place, and the result has been that a very large income has been derived for the last few years; but when I mention so large a sum as 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.*, I wish to state that that is confined only to the last three or four years.

2005. Do you know at all, from what you have heard, what the population of that place was before the mine became so prosperous?—No, I do not.

2006. But I suppose a large population has been introduced into the district by reason of the mining operations which have been carried on there?—It is not a very large population now; Grassington is a small place.

2007. Now go, if you please, to the Duke's other mines that you have spoken of?—Those are in the hands of Mr. Barrow, a lessee.

2008. Where are they?—At Staveley, in Derbyshire.

2009. Is it simply an iron mine?—No; coal and iron.

2010. What sort of iron have you there?—Ironstone.

2011. Do you work the coal and the ironstone at the same time?—Mr. Barrow, the lessee, works them.

2012. What is the royalty upon the coal?—The Duke receives a fixed rent, under a lease, with a provision that he shall receive a certain royalty in the event of that rent being exceeded; but it never yet has been exceeded.

2013. That is to say, if they exceed a certain number of tons, they are to pay a certain something per ton after they get beyond that amount?—Yes.

2014. And the coal in the same way?—And the coal in the same way.

2015. What is the mine rent for the ironstone?—It is one rent for the coal and iron.

2016. How much is it?—£. 4,000. a year.

2017. Then whether they win or lose, or whether they raise a ton or thousands of tons, they pay that rent?—Yes.

2018. What is the maximum quantity of coal and ironstone that they may raise?—The royalty originally was 3*d.* a ton; that was a very low royalty, which was fixed under a lease granted many years ago; that was for the coal, and the royalty for the ironstone and for one particular description of coal was 6*d.* a ton.

2019. In rating to the poor, you only rate on the coal?—Only on the coal; I presume so, but I am unable to speak to that, because the rates are all paid by the lessee, and as far as the Duke is concerned, I have nothing to do with the question of rating.

2020. In that district are there a great many agriculturists?—Yes.

2021. Are they connected with the mines in any way?—Only the Duke; the

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Duke himself is the owner of nearly the whole parish of Staveley, which is a large parish.

2022. Which is the most profitable product of those mines, the mine or the coal?—That is a question which I cannot answer; Mr. Barrow has a very large trade in coal, and I should think he must make a very considerable profit from it; he has also ironworks, and smelts and manufactures iron at Staveley.

2023. Do you know how they rate the plant at all?—I am not aware.

2024. You only know that the royalty is calculated at 3 *d.* a ton?—Yes.

2025. You do not know whether they pay more to the poor's-rate than that, or less?—No, I do not.

2026. It is a very old lease I understand you to say?—Not very old; it was originally granted about 20 years ago.

2027. Was it new ground?—No; it had been worked for many years when the lease was granted, but it had not been worked on a large scale.

2028. What was the reason for there being so low a royalty?—The object was to encourage the developement of the mines.

2029. You can say nothing about the poor-rates, I understand?—No, I cannot.

2030. Save that they only pay upon the royalty, whatever it may be?—Yes.

2031. In that neighbourhood are there other parties who hold land besides the Duke?—There are a few freeholders in Staveley parish, but very few.

2032. Generally speaking, the property is the Duke's?—Almost the whole of the parish is the Duke's; there are a few freeholders intermixed, but nearly the whole of it belongs to the Duke.

2033. Is there any other property of the Duke's as to the mode of rating which you can speak of your own knowledge?—There are the Derbyshire lead mines, which are subject to a peculiar custom. There the rates have been paid on the royalty.

2034. For whom are you agent besides the Duke of Devonshire?—For the Earl of Burlington.

2035. Where has he mines?—In Lancashire.

2036. What are they?—Iron mines; iron ore mines.

2037. No coal?—No coal.

2038. What is the largest mine he has there?—The largest mine is that occupied by Mr. Schneider, in the parish of Dalton.

2039. What is the return of that mine?—Mr. Schneider is in the room; I do not know that he would have any objection to my stating it. Up to the present time I think the largest sum has been 7,000*l.* for royalty, but this year it will be 8,000*l.* I hope.

2040. At what rate per ton is that?—That is at 1*s.* 3*d.*

2041. Is that a mine that has been working for a long time?—No; a lease was originally granted to Mr. Schneider, I think, 20 years ago, under which lease he worked at a great disadvantage for many years, and he was on the point of giving it up, but retained a small portion of the ground, and then discovered a very valuable mine at the last moment.

2042. Whose land is in the immediate neighbourhood of that mine?—A great deal of the land is Lord Burlington's, and there are different freeholders.

2043. Is that mine rated at all to the poor?—No.

2044. Is there any open working there at all?—There are open workings in the district, but this is not an open working.

2045. Are you at all aware of the number of men who are employed there?—No.

2046. There is a great deal of plant there, of course; do you know how that is rated to the poor?—That I do not know.

2047. Those are all matters as to which we can obtain information from some other witness who is in attendance here, I understand?—Yes; you can get that from Mr. Schneider himself.

2048. Have you given your attention at all to the question as to the rating of these mines?—No; my attention has been directed more to the general principle of rating.

2049. Mr. *Spooner.*] Have you any information to give to the Committee upon that subject?—No, I have no information to give. I have my own opinion upon the

the subject, and if that opinion is considered worth anything, I shall be happy to state it.

2050. We shall be glad to hear what your opinion is upon the subject?—My opinion is, that if the law of rating is to be altered, there is no just reason why mines alone should be rated; if the question was, whether the law should be altered, so as to assess money in the funds, mortgages, personal property, and all property, in fact, then I think it would be a fair one for discussion; but I cannot see any reason why the law should be altered especially to apply to mines.

2051. *Chairman.*] Can you see any reason why in this district, where coal and mine exist together, the coal should be rated, and the mine should not be rated?—No; I do not see that there is any just principle in that.

2052. Mr. *Vivian.*] I believe it is a principle of the English law, that you cannot argue in your own wrong?—Yes.

2053. Do you think that coal mines ought to be rated?—Coal mines having been rated for 300 years, I see no reason why there should be an alteration made in the law with regard to them.

2054. Still the case of coal mines is an exceptional case?—Entirely so.

2055. Does the Duke of Devonshire own any property in Grassington besides his mineral rights?—Yes; he owns a certain quantity of land, but he has no large amount of landed property.

2056. Is it, generally speaking, an agricultural parish?—It is an agricultural parish generally.

2057. Can you state to what the rates in that parish amount?—No, I cannot; the Duke's agent will be able to state that.

2058. Do you consider generally that a mine is a burden upon the population of the parish in which it is situated, or the reverse?—Most undoubtedly it is not a burden; it is a benefit to it.

2059. Do you consider that it is a benefit to the agriculturists of the parish?—Certainly.

2060. Do you think that, in point of fact, they would be in a less prosperous position if that mine never had existed?—Certainly.

2061. As regards Staveley, I think you have stated that the Duke owns nearly the whole parish?—Almost the whole.

2062. As his agent, do you consider it would be desirable to rate the mines in the parish of Staveley?—No, I think not.

2063. Do you think, as a whole, that it would be expedient to rate mines of the uncertain character of metallic mines?—I think not, because I believe that, taking mines on an average, there is more money lost than made by them; or, at any rate, I think there is very nearly a balance.

2064. If that be so, and if the principle of rating be on the beneficial interest, there would be no justice, would there, in rating mines?—There would be no justice in it whatever; the vast majority of mining speculations are failures; I believe there is no question about that.

2065. I dare say you have been engaged in negotiations for the letting of mines, have you not?—Yes.

2066. Have you known negotiations go off on account of small additions being proposed to be made to dead charges or royalties?—I cannot say I have known any negotiation go off on that account; but I have no doubt that a very small addition would be sufficient to put an end to a negotiation. In dealing, however, for the Duke we have been always satisfied with very moderate royalties, so that the difficulty does not arise.

2067. You have stated that an average royalty is a thirteenth in the district of Grassington; suppose a poor-rate of 4*s.* or 3*s.* in the pound were the average rate in the district, something like two thirteenths would be rated to the poor, would they not?—Do you mean if the royalty were a thirteenth?

2068. Yes, and the rates were 3*s.*, or, speaking roughly, a seventh?—I think I do not quite understand the question.

2069. If the royalty is a thirteenth, and the rates are 3*s.* in the pound, the royalty would be rated to the extent of a seventh, would it not?—Yes.

2070. Then it would be two thirteenths, would it not, or two fourteenths, rather?—Yes.

2071. If, instead of the royalty being a thirteenth, it were raised to an eleventh, do you consider that that would have the effect of decreasing the number of mineral speculations in that particular district?—Yes, I think it might.

 2072. You

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2072. You would consider an eleventh an excessive royalty, would you not?—Yes, I should consider it an excessive royalty, because the Duke's royalties are generally much less than a thirteenth.

2073. Then the effect of imposing a rate would be precisely the same as increasing the royalty, would it not?—Precisely. I do not say it would be so in the case of the Duke; but in the case of a majority of mineral proprietors, I believe the effect would be that the burden would be thrown upon the occupier, and that would give great discouragement to mining operations. In all the leases granted by the Duke it is invariably stipulated that the rates shall be paid by the occupier.

2074. Do your leases contain covenants which compel the lessees to pay all rates, except the property tax?—Yes, always.

2075. Mr. *Hume.*] I understand you to say you would not object to the rating of mines if all property were rated?—Yes, I said so.

2076. When you speak of all property, do you include funds, or house-rent, or wood-lands, or property that is derived from sources which give no employment whatever to labour?—Yes, I mean all property, both real and personal.

2077. I will put an extreme case, money in the 3 ½ per Cents; do you think there is no distinction to be drawn between rating funds that give no employment at all to labour, and rating property that employs a vast number of hands annually, where, in the natural course of events, a certain amount of pauperism must be generated every year by the wearing out of the human body; do you think there is no distinction to be drawn between those two cases?—No; because I think that a mine confers a benefit upon the district in which it is established; it does not simply leave a certain amount of pauperism to be provided for; it increases the value of property, and enables the owners and occupiers to meet the calls which may be made upon them in the shape of rates. There is this, also, to be observed, that the property which is rated has invariably been rated for a number of years, and therefore it has been bought and sold subject to that liability.

2078. But if a mine does improve property and its neighbourhood, the adventurer does not go into the speculation from love for the people of his neighbourhood, but he goes into it, does he not, for his own benefit, and with a view to his own success; he takes his chance of that, does he not?—Undoubtedly.

2079. Does it not appear rather hard that he should go into it with a certainty, as far as he can be certain, of lessening his losses by throwing the burden of maintaining the poor on those who derive no advantage from the profits which are derived from the mining operations which are carried on, beyond that of their giving employment to the neighbourhood; would the amount of labour be as great in his neighbourhood, first of all, if he did not speculate there, and if his mine were not opened?—No, certainly not.

2080. And would the amount of pauperism be as great?—It would not be.

2081. Do you think that the advantage which the agriculturist derives is greater than the disadvantage under which he labours, in consequence of the amount of pauperism that there is thrown upon him, and which he is obliged to maintain?—Yes, I should think it is as great.

2082. But it ought to be greater; it is only equal; is that what you mean?—It would, I think, be difficult to say whether it is as great, or greater; it may be greater, or only as great.

2083. If the amount of rating is greater than the advantages which are derived from the employment of hands in his neighbourhood, of course it is a disadvantage to the agriculturist to have a mine in his neighbourhood?—But I think the question should not be confined simply to the district; it involves a larger question; whether mining generally should be encouraged or not.

2084. So I meant it?—I consider that the parties adventuring their money in mines have a vested right, if I may so call it, of going into any district, and leaving a certain amount of pauperism there; that, no doubt, is putting the case strongly against my view; it may be a question of expediency whether they ought to have that right or not; if it is desirable to encourage mining, it is, I think, desirable that they should have that right, and that it should not be interfered with.

2085. Do you not think it may be desirable to encourage mining without encouraging it at your or at my expense; do you not think that it would be very hard if you or I were to be obliged to bear a portion of the burdens of another man's speculation?—

speculation?—For the public good; not for the good of the individual, but for the good of the public.

2086. That would be an argument that would apply to all property, would it not?—Yes; it is a general argument.

2087. Then according to that, you would consider that all property ought to be rated?—No, that is not my conclusion; I say that mines, in my opinion, ought not to be rated, because I think that encouragement ought to be afforded to persons to venture their money in mines; one of those encouragements being their exemption from poor-rates.

2088. If you think it right for the public good to encourage mining, is it not equally desirable for the public good to encourage it by making all property, funded property, forests, and everything else which produces no pauperism, contribute its quota towards the encouragement which you say should be given to mining generally?—I should have no objection to that at all.

2089. You would have no objection to all species of property being made subject to the poor-rates?—No; but at the same time, I believe it would be quite impracticable to rate every description of property.

2090. But, according to your own showing, I may, I think, draw the conclusion that you think all property ought to be rated?—Yes; as an abstract question, that would be my opinion. As an abstract question, I should say that all property ought to be rated, but at the same time, I do not think that it could be carried into effect. I think that the difficulties would be so great that it would be found to be impossible to rate personal property. I think, however, that the intention of the Act of Elizabeth probably was that all property should be rated.

2091. But the times of Elizabeth and the times in which we live are very different?—Yes.

2092. And an argument or a reason which would hold good, and which would be very applicable in their day, might not hold good or be at all applicable in the present day?—No, but if it does hold good, it is all the stronger.

2093. Mr. *Bouverie.*] In letting the Duke's mines, do you ever let them without a royalty for a given time?—Occasionally.

2094. Is that with a view of encouraging the opening of mines?—Yes; we have in some instances let small lead mines for a year or two, without any royalty at all.

2095. Mr. *Ridley.*] I think you say that coal mines having been rated ever since the time of Elizabeth, you think that is a good reason why they should continue to be rated?—Yes; I look upon it as a vested right of the public to rate coal mines, and I do not see any reason to interfere with it.

2096. Do you see any other good reason for rating coal mines, when other mines are allowed to be exempt?—Yes, coal mining is attended with much less risk than any other description of mining.

2097. Have you ever been much engaged in working coal mines?—No.

2098. Mr. *Child.*] Do you consider the rating of coal mines a matter of policy or a matter of precedent?—A matter of precedent more than of policy.

2099. Mr. *Spooner.*] Have you any practical knowledge yourself of the way in which coal mines are assessed for the purpose of being rated?—No, I have not.

2100. *Chairman.*] When you grant leases, do you make a reservation that if they should be rated to the poor the lessees are to pay the rates?—No, we never have had any provision of that sort, but there is a covenant that all rates and taxes, of any sort whatever, shall be paid by the occupier; words are introduced which are quite sufficient to cover everything, except of course in the case of an express enactment, such as there is in the Income Tax Act.

2101. A question was asked you just now, whether putting on a poor-rate would not be equivalent to raising the royalty, and you were asked some question as to raising it from a thirteenth to an eleventh in mining districts generally; what proportion does the value of the mineral property bear to the value of the agricultural property in a district?—That must be infinitely various.

2102. Generally speaking, where you have a large mine, that if rated would be more valuable, would it not, than the whole of the agricultural farms in the district?—Yes, very likely. I know that in the case of the Park Mine, a mine of Lord Burlington's, if that were rated, the effect would be that the lessee would have to pay very largely indeed towards the rate in the parish of Dalton, perhaps almost as much as the whole rate now amounts to.

2103. The number of poor being the same?—Yes.

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2104. In many instances it would not be much more than half; you could not calculate upon the rates as they are now, because you would have a double amount of property to meet those same rates?—Yes, you would have a double amount of property to rate upon.

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2105. *Chairman.*] YOU are a very large Proprietor of Iron Mines?—I am.

2106. Have you open mines as well as close mines?—We have one very small open mine.

2107. What is your largest iron mine?—In the Low Furness district the largest mine we have is entirely a close mine, and all the other mines that we have are close mines, with the exception of a small part of one mine, out of which altogether we have raised about 50,000 tons of ore: that is the sole exception to close mining.

2108. What is the name of your largest mine?—The Park Mine, in the Low Furness district, in the parish of Dalton, Lancashire.

2109. What are your returns there?—I began that mine nearly 20 years ago, and for the first 10 or 12 years we raised nothing, spending a very large sum of money; I almost abandoned it in despair; it is a very peculiar class of mining; there are no veins, properly so called; there is nothing to lead you to it except general inference, and a knowledge of the country, consequently we work very much in the dark for a great length of time, until we hit upon the ore.

2110. Is it hematite?—Yes, the Park Mine having been worked by me for 10 or 12 years without finding ore to make it worth working, I was on the point of abandoning it, when by a lucky hit (I can call it nothing else) we discovered a deposit of ore of an immense size, and from it, within the last seven years, we have been gradually increasing the quantity raised from 10,000 tons, the first year, to about 150,000 tons this year.

2111. What is the value of that ore per ton in the market?—I think that the fair average value of all the ore that we have raised in the district for a series of years may be said to be about 11 *s.* a ton.

2112. That would be its average value, where?—At the shipping port.

2113. What is the royalty on that?—One shilling and three pence.

2114. That royalty is not rated in any way, is it?—Not in any way.

2115. What was the state of the parish when you first began to work the mine?—Ten years ago, there was a great amount of surplus labour, and at that time the amount paid to the relief of the poor in the Ulverstone Union was 10,000 *l.* per annum on an average of three years; that was from 1834 to 1836. In 1855 it had decreased to 6,800 *l.*

2116. Mr. *Child.*] What is the area of the district?—56,000 acres; it is about 25 miles in extent, taking the extreme length; and its greatest breadth is about 10 miles.

2117. *Chairman.*] Can you state what is the acreage of the parish in which this mine is?—I do not know the acreage of it, but it is a very large parish indeed. I may state that the rate in the parish of Dalton has been uniformly, for the last 20 years, 1 *s.* in the pound.

2118. It has not varied at all; it has been the same when the mine was poor as when it was rich?—No, it has not varied at all; the only solitary exception was during those years of distress in 1847 and 1848, when the failure of the potato crop threw a great number of poor persons on the parish temporarily; but I should state, also, that during those years the mines did not throw one single person upon the poor-rates.

2119. Your population increases largely, I suppose, with the increase of your mining operations?—Yes; they come chiefly from other portions of the same union of Ulverstone; when I say the union of Ulverstone, I include the whole of what is called Lonsdale north of the Sands. Two hundred out of the number now employed have come from other districts, but all the other increase has been derived from other parts of the same district.

2120. I want to know what has been the effect upon the parish of Dalton; in that parish, I understand, the poor-rates have not varied for the last 20 years, 1 *s.* in the pound being the amount of the rate?—Yes.

2121. Of course there has been introduced into the parish a very large population?—Yes.

2122. But notwithstanding that, the amount of the poor's-rate has not increased?—No.

2123. You must have brought in eventually a great number of poor, have you not?—Yes.

2124. How are those poor provided for?—In two ways; first of all, we have increased the population, and, in the next place, the population has been increased by the necessities created by our mines; for instance, at our shipping port, in the same parish, there were very few houses, and very few people; now there is a population amounting to some hundreds. Dalton, our parish town, is also very largely increased; the number of shops has increased, and the number of labourers of every kind and description has also increased; but during the whole of the time I have been working the mines there, to my knowledge, we have never had a single person upon the union. The way in which that is provided for is this: we have always held that, as mine owners, wishing for the prosperity of the country, and wishing to improve the position of our miners, we should never allow them to go upon the union if we could help it, and the consequence has been that, in the first instance, we established a club, towards the support of which we deduct 18*s.* a year from every man who earns beyond a certain sum of money; if he does not earn that certain sum of money, we pay the 18*s.* for him; it is taken at 18*d.* a month; if he does not earn a certain sum in the course of a month, we pay the 18*d.* for him; whenever they are sick we allow them 10*s.* a week, and find them medical attendance besides; whenever they meet with an accident we keep them till they are capable of resuming their work; if they are killed (and we have had unfortunately four instances of that kind in the course of the last ten years) we provide for their wives and families until they are able to provide for themselves.

2125. I understand you to say you have not allowed a single working man, or a single being connected with one of your working men who has come to poverty, sickness, or death in consequence of his having been employed in your mines, to come upon the union?—Not while working for us; of course, men have left us and gone elsewhere, and when that is the case, we do not know what becomes of them.

2126. Do you allow them to work with you as long as they like?—Yes.

2127. You do not dismiss them after they have worked with you a certain time?—No; there is no compulsion. It is a remarkable fact that, with one solitary exception, we have never for the last ten years reduced our number of men, but have gone on continually increasing them. That applies to my own mines, but it applies also, pretty generally, to the mines throughout the district; but at the same time, I should mention that other elements have given rise to this state of things; for instance, the immensely increased amount of production in the district, which has risen in the last ten years from 100,000 tons a year to 600,000 tons exported this year, has caused an immense consumption of all the necessaries of life in the district, and from that country having been a large exporting country for grain, and all kinds of agricultural produce, it has now become an importing country; the value of land also is increasing in every direction, the produce of the land being sold immediately at the doors of the farmers; and, as a rule, I should say that there is in the mining part of that district universal prosperity.

2128. What is about the average rental per acre of land in that district?—It varies very much indeed, but I should say from 25*s.* to 2*l.* an acre.

2129. For what did it use to let?—I do not think that the agricultural value of the land has risen very materially. I think that the farmers are the men who have benefited by the mines rather than the landlords.

2130. Is the land chiefly in the hands of one proprietor or not?—No; there are very numerous proprietors. Lord Burlington is the largest landed proprietor in the district. There are a great many persons who have small farms, which are their own freeholds; they have small incomes, and occupy their farms themselves.

2131. What is the amount of your charities?—Practically, you may say it all falls upon us; because undoubtedly if we were rated we should naturally throw the poor upon the parish; and most certainly we should reduce the men's wages in proportion to the amount which we now deduct for the club. Practically, it comes to this: that we pay towards the support of the club something like 50*l.*

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or 60*l.* a year on an average, and the average amount of the contributions to the club for the last five years has been about 400*l.* a year.

2132. The 18*s.* which you deduct comes, within about 60*l.*, to the amount of the sum expended?—Yes.

2133. You have discovered, have you not, a large body of hematite, as to which I hope there is no chance of its being worked out?—I hope not.

2134. But what would be the consequence to the parish if it were to depart as suddenly as it came?—Undoubtedly the first result would be, that there would be pauperism entailed upon the parish; but it is a thing I can hardly contemplate occurring in our district; because when I mention to the Committee the single fact that the production has gone on increasing at this enormous ratio, and that we never saw the mines looking so much like permanent lasting as they do at the present moment, I think it will be seen that the suggestion of the discontinuance of working is a notion that can hardly be entertained; practically, no doubt, we have found individual mines exhausted and abandoned; but as fast as they have been abandoned others have been taken up; the population, also, is so placed in the district, that it is pretty well available for any mines that may be discovered; and practically, many more mines have been discovered than have failed.

2135. Are you rated upon your plant?—No, not upon our plant; we are rated upon nothing except the inhabited cottages that there are upon the property and in which our men live, and also in respect of our tramways, which are laid down to the mines, and from the mines to the railways. I have about eight miles of single line of tramway spreading in various directions, and that tramway is rated, not in respect of the quantity of land occupied by it, but upon the amount which might be considered the profitable value of it.

2136. Do you know at what sum the parish of Dalton is assessed?—I do not know, but the next witness can tell you exactly. I only know that the rateable value has materially increased within the last ten years, in consequence of the large number of houses that have been built for the accommodation of our work people; and the houses built for the accommodation of the railway workpeople at the terminus of the railway at the shipping port have added materially also to the rateable property, and somewhat to the amount of the rate.

2137. The railway is rated, is it not?—Yes.

2138. Does it pass through the parish?—Yes, in four directions; there is a common centre, and there are two branches at each end.

2139. Your tramways I think you say are rated?—Yes.

2140. On what basis are they rated?—I never could ascertain; they fix a sum, and we never can get the basis upon which they fix it.

2141. What sum is it that they have fixed?—I cannot tell you. I wrote for the information, in order that I might be able to furnish it to the Committee; but my partner happened to be absent from home, and I could not get the information I sought.

2142. How long has the railway passed through the parish of Dalton?—Rather more than ten years.

2143. Is the price of agricultural produce dearer there than it is a little way off?—I think it is, decidedly.

2144. What is the nature of the agricultural produce there?—Everything that an agricultural country will produce.

2145. Is it corn-growing land or grazing land generally, or what?—Every description of land; they grow a great number of turnips, and feed sheep on the hills. I should mention that one cause of the great increase which has taken place in the value of rateable property, and of the general prosperity of the country, has been the fact that 22 miles of railway have been made exclusively for the use of these mines, thereby giving rise to a very large amount of employment. There is the same system established on the railway with regard to providing for their servants that we have with regard to ours, and the result has been largely to increase the prosperity of that part of the country without in the slightest degree affecting the rates. I would also mention this circumstance, to which I desire to direct the particular attention of the Committee with reference to the question as to the rating of these iron mines; if they were rated at the same amount as the rest of the parish of Dalton (that is at 1*s.* in the pound), I should pay this year altogether 15,000*l.* in dues, for I hold large properties not only under

Lord Burlington, but under the Duke of Buccleugh, Lord Derby, and one or two other parties. The whole rate for the parish of Dalton for the relief of the poor is something under 1,200 *l.* a year, and my rating at 1*s.* in the pound, would be 750 *l.* a year; now of course it must be evident that if we were rated, and if the clause in our lease would throw the burden upon us (as it would), we should instantly discontinue these charities, and so far as we are ourselves concerned, the result would be that we should not be very much affected. In the case of small people (and there have been a great number in the district), trying for iron, if they were rated, and if they were in the same position as that in which I was for the first 12 or 14 years that I was in the country, namely, in the position of paying a considerable amount of dues, without making any profit, it would be felt to be a very heavy tax upon them, and would in fact in many instances deter them from trying at all; they require all the encouragement that can be given to them, and I think that no burden should be cast upon them that can be kept off until the thing becomes profitable.

2146. Supposing you did not take that care of your poor that you do take, do you not think it would be very hard upon the other ratepayers in the parish that they should be obliged to take care of your poor; in other words, do you think that, in point of fact, you do more than you ought to do?—We have a feeling that, when mines are doing well, it is to our advantage to elevate the character of our population, and to keep them away from the parish if we can; and therefore we are content to do what, perhaps, others would not be disposed to do.

2147. Then you do not do it as a matter of justice?—No, but as something due to the miner; it elevates his moral character; keeping him off the parish certainly does make him a better member of society. I believe that by working in that way, and being liberal to my workpeople, I am doing that which is for my own advantage as well as theirs; if I am liberal to my workmen, they will be just towards me. I believe I have found that benefit. I will not put it altogether on a philanthropic motive, but I do it as a matter of policy. I do not conceive, however, that it would be unjust to the parish, and I will tell you why: we have increased the value of the property in the district enormously; landed proprietors within the district have sold their land for extraordinarily high prices; the value of land throughout the district has very greatly increased; the farmers are in a much better position now than they were formerly; they get better prices for everything, and can afford to pay heavier rates; the shopkeepers, also, are far better off; and the whole country has risen, in point of fact, I do not say from a state of poverty, but from a condition of not being rich to one of as great prosperity as is found in any part of England. The rates are very low. I must also say, that although it costs us something like 400 *l.* a year to keep men off the parish, it does not follow that it would cost 400 *l.* a year to the parish, because the parish never would give them 10*s.* a week as we do, nor would they come upon the parish at all until they were compelled to do so, but would live on their little savings.

2148. Does it not, in fact, come to this; that if parties have a mind to speculate and take their capital to a neighbourhood, and succeed in their operations, and make large profits, investing their capital with a view to those profits, they ought not to be bound to pay poor-rates; but that if they carry on these operations without the slightest view at all to the interest of the parties living in the neighbourhood, but if they happen indirectly to benefit them, they ought, because they are benefited, to pay?—I say this: if you would pass a Bill which would insure that mines should only be rated when they yielded a profit, I would go most heartily with you; because then, I think, it would be a great benefit to the country at large; but unfortunately the rating comes first, and the profit afterwards. No mine can be carried on in a district without benefiting that district to a very great extent; and with regard to our own case, I say I should have no very just ground for objecting to being rated, but I object upon the broad principle that for 14 years I should have had to pay very heavily to the rates at the very moment when I was benefiting the whole country.

2149. But if for 14 years you had found no hematite iron your would not have been rated, for you would only be rated upon the royalty, which royalty would only be payable upon the quantity of iron you found?—Granted; but you must bear in mind that, especially in such works as those in the Low Furness district, it requires that there should be a certain amount of ore raised before there is the slightest prospect of any profit being derived from the working. It is mining of such

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such a peculiar character, that it either results in a dead loss, or in a very large profit.

2150. Your mining knowledge we know is very considerable; you have mines in Cornwall also, have you not?—Yes.

2151. You know that there the rating does not come first and the dues afterwards, do you not?—Yes, but you will pardon me; I did not say that with us the rating came first, and the dues afterwards; but that the rating came first, and the profits afterwards; and I think I went on to say that in my own case I should have paid a very heavy amount of rates upon my own mines in Lancashire long before I had received any profits, and when, in fact, there was a heavy loss. One does not like to talk of one's losses, but I may mention that I spent from 25,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* in Lancashire before I received a shilling in the way of return; and I have no hesitation in saying, that if I had been rated it would have formed a very considerable element in my calculation. You must also remember this; I shall pay to Lord Burlington upwards of 8,000*l.* this year; I shall pay him that for what is actually abstracted from his property; if you rate me, whether at 1*s.* or 2*s.*, you do not rate me upon the income of the property, but you rate me distinctly in respect of the corpus of the estate.

2152. Part of the fee, in fact, is absorbed?—Yes, part of the fee; it is the fee, and not the income of the fee.

2153. Mr. *Vivian.*] It has been put to you whether you consider it just that if a person comes into a district, and spends a large sum of money, and brings together a large population, the other interests in the parish should pay the rates, and that he should not. Is it your opinion that, generally speaking, throughout the whole of England, the establishment of a mine in a parish is calculated to benefit the ratepayers of that parish, or do you think it is likely to be a burden to them?—I have no hesitation in saying that, as a general rule, the establishment of a mine confers a greater benefit upon a district than the amount of injury that is inflicted upon it by the abandonment of a mine. The benefit is permanent, while the injury is only temporary. When a mine is abandoned the poor must for the moment be thrown upon the parish, but they will either be absorbed in neighbouring mines immediately, or they will flock to other parts of England. The present law of settlement is the only thing that interferes with that state of things; if labour were as free as trade is, we should not have to complain so much of the burden that would be thrown on parishes by the abandonment of a mine.

2154. With regard to the difference in the value of mining property and surface property, speaking generally, from your knowledge of the subject, what should you say was a fair number of years' purchase for mines throughout the kingdom?—Taking the average, I would not give 10 years' purchase for the whole of the mines in England.

2155. Mr. *Ridley.*] Do you include in that coal mines?—Yes; I would include mines of every description. As a general question, taking the whole of England from one end to the other, I would not give 10 years' purchase for all the mines in the country.

2156. Mr. *Hume.*] For the royalties?—For the royalties. Indeed if any one would give me 10 years' purchase for my own best mine, I would very gladly take it.

2157. Mr. *Vivian.*] Would it be just, in your opinion, to rate in the same proportion an income not worth 10 years' purchase and an income worth 20 or 30 years' purchase?—Certainly not; indeed in stating 10 years' purchase I have gone beyond the mark. Public opinion, which is the best criterion in such cases, shows that from seven to eight years is about the average with respect to mining property generally throughout the country. If you look to the value of any great mine, and see the dividend it is paying, and multiply that dividend by seven, you will find that that is very nearly the value of that mine. In my opinion, the only fair way of rating dues, if they are to be rated at all, would be to take the amount of the royalty; and supposing it is 10,000*l.* a year, the question would be, what would that 10,000*l.* produce in land. Taking it at three per cent., it would give you 300*l.* a year; and that 300*l.* a year should then be commuted upon the average value of the mining property, say 10 years' purchase,

2158. Mr. *Spooner.*] You mean assessed, do you not; you said commuted?—No; I have studiously avoided the word "assessed," for this reason, that when the money has once gone into the landlord's pocket you have nothing to assess.

If

If I pay to Lord Burlington this year 10,000 *l.*, it is gone for ever; it becomes personalty.

2159. Mr. *Vivian.*] Assuming that the principle of rating mines should be affirmed by the Legislature, your opinion is that a clause should be inserted into any Bill that might be introduced to carry out that principle, defining the mode in which mining property should be assessed?—I should consider that that would be essentially necessary. There would be so many different modes of rating throughout the kingdom, that no Bill, I think, could work that did not define most minutely the way in which the rating should be levied. Let me put this case by way of illustration: suppose 10,000*l.* to be paid in one year for royalty, at three per cent. it would be 300*l.* a year, which in my parish, at 1*s.* in the pound, would give 15*l.*; commute that at 10 years' purchase, and the rate would be 150*l.*; whereas 1*s.* upon the 10,000*l.* would be 500*l.* That is the nearest calculation I have been able to arrive at as to what would be the fair mode of proceeding if the principle of rating mines were adopted.

2160. But you are diametrically opposed to the principle of rating mines being adopted?—Entirely so; not only as regards mines generally, but as regards coal mines: I do not hold that, because a tax has been levied for 300 years, it is therefore to be treated as a just tax, and is not to be done away with. I work coal mines to some considerable extent, and I confess that the element of rating was a very serious one in my mind; in fact, I was driven into taking coal mines; I did not wish to take them, and for a long time 1*d.* a ton prevented my taking them.

2161. As regards your iron mines, they are at this moment in a flourishing condition, are they not?—They are.

2162. But they were in a profitless condition for many years previously, were they not?—Yes.

2163. Should you have considered the imposition of an increased dead rent, or a rate equivalent to an increased dead rent, a sufficient reason for abandoning those mines?—If a rate had been imposed upon me, there is no doubt that at one moment it would have turned the scale, and I should never have had the iron mines I now have in Lancashire; it required a very little to turn the scale with me 10 years ago; but I should say, that although a dead rent is a very usual thing in our mines, they are considered very uncertain till a mine is really found; and no dead rent was imposed upon us in Lord Burlington's case until we actually discovered the ore; therefore we had no rent to pay until we might be supposed to be making some profit.

2164. When I said dead rent I meant dead charge; I believe you are the lessee of other iron mines, are you not, in the district of Exmoor?—Yes.

2165. In that case have you made large outlays?—I have; I have spent 3,500*l.* in trials this last year.

2166. Has that undertaking been profitable?—No; it has been totally unsuccessful.

2167. In the negotiations which took place prior to your taking those mines, was the matter of royalty a subject of very considerable importance?—It was of so much importance, that I was three weeks before I gave way upon 1*d.* a ton; that protracted the negotiation for three weeks, and very nearly broke it off.

2168. What is the royalty there?—The royalty fixed there is 1*s.* 3*d.*; and the reason for its being fixed at 1*s.* 3*d.* was simply because we paid 1*s.* 3*d.* in the north of England; I should not have consented to it, but it was likely to be a competing district with me in the north of England, and I felt compelled to take it, as a means of protecting my own interests elsewhere.

2169. Can you tell me to how much in the pound the poor-rate in Exmoor amounts?—It is extra-parochial; I believe it belongs entirely to one proprietor, and consequently there are no poor-rates.

2170. Assuming the average poor-rate throughout the kingdom to be 3*s.* in the pound, or one-seventh, the case of Exmoor is an exceptional case; but if Exmoor had not been extra-parochial and you had been assessed at the rate of one-seventh, that would have added to your dead charge 2*d.* a ton, would it not?—Yes.

2171. Would that have been sufficient to induce you to break off the negotiation?—Under any ordinary circumstances it would have been; but I was placed in a very exceptional position with regard to Exmoor; I could not allow a valuable property in the north of England to be sacrificed, as it would have been, if Exmoor had come largely into play. If I had not been in that position, I most decidedly

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decidedly should not have consented to pay an additional charge, which would have amounted to 2*d.* a ton; it would have entirely prevented my taking that property. I may mention that in the Wheal Vor Mine, in Cornwall, which was abandoned some few years ago, when we took it up the rates were 10*s.* in the pound, and since that mine has been got into full play the rates have been reduced to 3*s.* 4*d.* in the pound.

2172. What number of hands are employed there?—I think, altogether, about 1,200.

2173. The Wheal Vor was abandoned at one time?—Yes. Practically I am not very well acquainted with the Wheal Vor. I should think the manager, who ought to come before you upon this point, would be best able to answer questions as to that mine. I do not know much of the details of the operations carried on there; but I have no hesitation in saying that the question of the rates at Wheal Vor would have been a very serious question in our calculations in taking it up at all; for the sum which we had to lay out there was enormous before we could expect to get any return. We knew that we should benefit the district most enormously if we set the mine to work; therefore we should consider it extremely unfair that we should be rated in respect of that property.

2174. What amount of property has been embarked in the Wheal Vor?—I am afraid to say from memory, but 5,000*l.* is not much, one way or the other; in round figures, I should say about 100,000*l.*

2175. That sum of money has been embarked in starting that mine?—Yes.

2176. So that 100,000*l.* has been embarked without any return up to a certain point?—Yes; I should say there have been very large returns lately, amounting to 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.*; nearly 6,000*l.* in some months: but the balance of outlay over return has amounted to 100,000*l.* Our dues now amount to upwards of 2,000*l.* a year.

2177. For a long time that mine was worked without returning any profit to the adventurers, was it not?—It was.

2178. Although large dues were paid?—Although large dues were paid.

2179. So that if a rate had been imposed upon those dues it would have been simply an addition to the loss incurred, would it not?—Yes; there is no doubt that Wheal Vor has at times yielded enormous profits, but there have been other periods when there have been very heavy losses.

2180. The town of Helston is situated very near to it, is it not?—Yes.

2181. Has not the trade of Helston been very materially benefited by it?—I am told, upon evidence upon which I can implicitly rely, that from having been a deserted town, as it was before I knew it, it is now exhibiting signs of great life and prosperity; the last time I was down there trade was extremely brisk, and the market day was a perfect sight after what they had been accustomed to see there, with grass growing in their streets. I do not think that the inhabitants of Helston would have to pay the rates, because the Wheal Vor mines are in the parish of Breage, and it would be Breage parish that would receive the benefit of the rates.

2182. Do many of the miners reside in the parish of Helston?—Yes; and one of the great objections that I have to this principle of rating is, that in so many cases the parish that would receive the rates would not have the poor to keep; take, for instance, our own case at Ulverstone; a great number of miners reside in the town of Ulverstone, and a great number of them reside in other parts out of the parish in which the mines are; if those miners were thrown upon the parish, those parishes would have to support them, which in no sense would receive any benefit from the rates.

2183. So that any legislative measure upon this subject must, in your opinion, be accompanied by a general system of union rating?—You must have a union rating before you can make the principle at all reasonable in its application.

2184. Can you state what are the dues paid in the case of the Wheal Vor?—A thirty-sixth; but for Wheal metal a twentieth.

2185. A seventh of that would be something like 4½ *d.*, assuming a seventh to be the average rating?—Yes.

2186. So that supposing dues were to be rated, that would be an additional dead charge of 4½ *d.*?—A thirty-second comes to a fraction under 8 *d.* in the pound.

2187. So that would be nearly 1*d.* in the pound, in fact?—Yes; and the

rates

rates in Breage at the present moment being a sixth, it would come to a penny and a sixth.

2188. Which would be a very heavy imposition, would it not?—A very heavy imposition; in point of fact, we had a very long and tedious negotiation with a view to get the dues reduced a mere trifle to bring them from a thirty-second to a thirty-sixth.

2189. Mr. *Cavendish.*] You have spoken of poor-rates in the parish of Dalton; do you know anything of the highway-rate?—No, I do not.

2190. Your mines are not assessed to the highway-rate, are they?—No; certainly not.

2191. Have you heard any complaints reccently made at Dalton respecting mines not being rated?—In former years a complaint, and a very just complaint, was made that the mines were not rated to the highway-rates. Of all the unjust things that ever were perpetrated, I think one of the most unjust was our not paying highway-rates, because we cut the roads to pieces and paid no rates for their repair; but that was done away with when the railways were established, ten years ago, and now no complaints of that kind can arise, because we do not use the roads.

2192. Are you aware of any complaints having been made lately with regard to a mine which has recently been opened in the parish?—Yes, there has been one on the Stainton road; that is a just complaint, undoubtedly, and we are meeting it by subscribing towards the repair of the roads. Undoubtedly, if the ore were carted over the roads to any great extent, it would be a most unjust thing that the mine should not contribute towards the expense of repairing those roads, for that is a practical charge upon their working.

2193. You are extending tramways, are you not, to all the different mines?—Yes; we have done so to every mine in the district, except the very mine you have just mentioned. We have a small mine there belonging to us, and there is another mine in the same district belonging to another firm.

2194. Mr. *Child.*] If it would be unjust to the parishes that mines should not be rated to the highways when they use them, it would, of course, be equally unjust, would it not, to the miners to rate them to the highways if they did not use them?—Undoubtedly it would.

2195. Mr. *Ridley.*] Where are the coal mines situated in which you are interested?—In Glamorganshire; on the borders of Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire.

2196. Do you hold them under long leases?—Leases for 60 years; we commenced opening them about 12 months ago.

2197. What royalty do you pay there?—4*d.*, 6*d.*, and 9*d.*; 4*d.* for the screenings, 6*d.* for what is called through-and-through coal, and 9*d.* for hand-picked coal.

2198. Those mines are rated to the poor, are they not?—Yes.

2199. And that rate, I suppose, falls upon you?—That rate falls upon us.

2200. Upon what principle is the assessment to the poor-rate made?—That I cannot tell you, because, as I have mentioned already, I have not looked into that matter; we have only opened those mines in Glamorganshire within the last 12 months, and at present we have not paid any rates, for we have not raised any large quantities of coal.

2201. You have sunk, I suppose, a good deal of capital in opening these mines?—Before they are completed, and before, in fact, they are doing any real business, we shall have laid out upon them about 20,000*l.*

2202. But you have not yet paid any rates in respect of them, and therefore you are not prepared to give any evidence upon the subject?—No.

2203. Mr. *Bouverie.*] In estimating the royalty which it was worth your while to pay for the coal mines which you recently took, did you take into account that you had to pay poor's-rates?—That was a great subject of discussion, and I believe that we did succeed in getting some little reduction on the dues; that reduction was asked on the plea that we would not incur this expenditure unless practically the lord paid the rates.

2204. *Chairman.*] You have said that in the parish in which the Wheal Vor mine is situated, the poor-rate was 10*s.* before the last working commenced; whereas it is now only 3*s.* 4*d.*? Yes.

2205. Will you state how that 10*s.* arose?—It arose I have no doubt in the first instance in consequence of the abandonment of the mine; but there were other causes also operating; and the Committee will bear this in mind, that

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when the Wheal Vor ceased working the whole parish of Breage, the whole neighbourhood, became a deserted place; the value of property of every sort and kind fell enormously, and the labouring agricultural population were thrown out of employment; labour of every sort and kind was thrown upon the rates; and I am convinced in my own mind that the increase in the rates arose as much from the numbers of men that were otherwise employed than in mining who were thrown upon the parish, as from the number of miners who were thrown upon the parish; and this is also certain, that the miners left Breage, and went to other districts to a very great extent.

2206. Are you not aware that there was an amazing amount of poverty occasioned in the parish of Breage, in consequence of the aged and infirm being left behind, and becoming chargeable upon the parish?—Yes.

2207. In the olden time, when the Wheal Vor was last worked, the royalties paid to the poor-rates, did they not?—That I am not aware; I have told you before that I do not know very much about that point; the manager of the mine will be the party to give you information upon it.

2208. May I say you are not aware whether the Wheal Vor in its prior workings paid to the poor's-rate on the royalty, but that you believe it did?—Yes.

2209. At present your leases are so drawn as to avoid that, are they not?—That I am not aware of; but I believe the fact to be as you state.

2210. You do not pay poor-rates at any rate?—No; but I must mention this distinction: that in the former working the Wheal Vor dues were paid in kind; in the present case we pay in money, which makes an essential difference; why that anomaly should have existed I do not know; but where dues are paid in kind they have always been charged to poor-rates, and a more unjust thing never existed in England than that; because it happens to be paid in kind you make the corpus pay, but you do not make the corpus pay when it is paid in money.

2211. Where leases have been drawn providing for the payment in kind, and where afterwards it has been made in money, the payment to the owner is made in the same way, is it not?—I believe so.

2212. So that it is a mere question of terms on paper, and does not, in the least degree, affect the mode of action?—Yes.

2213. With regard to the great outlay which you say has been made at Wheal Vor; that has been the richest tin mine in the world, has it not?—Undoubtedly.

2214. And it has made the largest profits that have been made by any mine, has it not?—Yes; the profits I believe have been enormous.

2215. And since it stopped machinery has been very much improved?—Yes.

2216. When it stopped it was very rich at the bottom, was it not?—It was supposed to be so.

2217. And now you are making this large outlay to get it out?—Yes.

2218. Did you not make the discovery of a lode called the metal lode?—Yes.

2219. And if you were contented with that metal lode now, would it not pay you for all your outlay?—That might lead us into a long argument; I am not disposed to answer that question off-hand; I should have to bring before you a number of engineers and miners to enable you to come to a conclusion upon that question; I do not believe that it could be worked without an enormous expenditure for drainage, unless the water were taken out of the old mine.

2220. But your present workings, for which you obtain a return of some thousands a month, are at a much higher level, are they not, than the bottom level of Wheal Vor?—Yes; but if Wheal Vor were full of water we should be drowned in Wheal metal.

2221. If you had stopped months ago, or were to stop now, would you not make very considerable profits by the metal lode alone?—A fair profit, but not anything like what we appear to be making; because we should have to spend a large additional sum of money for drainage which we are now charging to the drainage of the old mine.

2222. Is it not the fact, that if you were not desirous to make very large profits you would not make so large an outlay?—We might be contented with the Wheal metal no doubt. I do not wish to disguise the fact that we consider it a speculation worth going on with; if we had not so considered we should not have spent our money upon it.

2223. It is a very deep mine, is it not?—Yes.

2224. What is the depth of it?—About 300 fathoms.

2225. Have you any man-engine to assist the men in ascending and descending?—Yes.

2226. Do you know at all from what you have heard whether or not there were a great many infirm and poor, and a gre t many accidents occasioned by the mine?—Yes, a great number.

2227. In the olden time?—Yes, in the olden time.

2228. Had the royalties paid to the poor-rates?—Yes.

2229. Now all those accidents would be thrown upon the parish?—Just so; but then I must draw your attention to this fact: that prior to the abandonment of Wheal Vor, the mine had got into a most dilapidated condition, and it was perfectly unsafe for any man to have worked there. The accidents which occurred were really occasioned by the mine being in such a state, that if it existed in that state in these days, I really believe that the proprietors and mine captains would be indicted for manslaughter, for allowing the men to go down into the mine when it was in such a condition.

2230. Had you any fight with the lessors with reference to this question, as to the reservation of dues in kind or in money?—Yes.

2231. The lords were anxious, were they not, to secure payment to the poor-rate?—I believe they were.

2232. As a matter of justice?—Yes.

2233. On what ground was that?—I believe that their anxiety was to relieve themselves as much as they possibly could.

2234. Have they much property in the parish besides?—I think they have a very large amount of property.

2235. Who are the lessors?—The Duke of Leeds, Mr. Popham, and, Mr. Trelawny.

2236. Did all three of them make a hard struggle?—I had not much to do with the matter, therefore I am not able to state exactly what took place; but I have no doubt that the statement you have made is practically correct.

2237. You succeeded in getting this lease on the terms of making a money payment?—Yes.

2238. With a view of avoiding the payment of the poor-rate?—Quite so.

2239. And you hold that those parties who pay the poor-rate are so benefited by the mines that they ought to pay for the poor you bring there?—Yes, I do; I hold that if Wheal Vor were abandoned to-morrow, it would not have the same effect upon the poor-rate as the abandonment of it had before; what happened before can never happen again; the Wheal Vor mine is now worked as every other mine in England is worked; the abandonment of it would not be so injurious now as it was formerly. Wheal Vor had been at that time in Chancery for some years, and they spent something like 200,000 *l.* in law. During the litigation nothing was repaired; everything went to rack and ruin. Wheal Vor, therefore, is an exceptional case.

2240. Have you clubs there?—Yes.

2241. Mr. *Vivian.*] In the former working of Wheal Vor, Wheal Vor paid to the poor-rates?—So I understand.

2242. Suppose all mines were rated to the poor, would not the same thing occur in case of their abandonment as occurred in the case of Wheal Vor?—No doubt; only it would be infinitely worse in some cases.

2243. In what way would a district be benefited after the abandonment of a mine, if mines were rated?—In no way whatever.

2244. They would be precisely in the same position as that in which Wheal Vor was?—Yes; in fact, I think things would be a great deal worse, because the miner would lose the desire to keep off the parish, which he now has.

2245. Have you a practical illustration of the fact in the case of Wheal Vor?—Yes.

2246. It was rated to the poor, and when Wheal Vor was abandoned the rates in the parish were very high?—Yes.

2247. That is a practical illustration, is it not, of what the effect of the law would be, assuming that mines were rated?—No doubt it is.

2248. *Chairman.*] The argument is, because when mines stop they are likely to entail great cost upon the ratepayers, therefore while the mine is working and making a large profit, the ratepayers should pay the whole of the rates?—No, I do

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do not say "therefore;" I maintain that the reverse would be the case; I maintain that, practically, the effect of the men subscribing to clubs is to engender feelings of self-respect, and a desire to economise, which does not obtain when they know that if they meet with any casualty, or fall sick, they will be thrown upon the poor-rates. I think it establishes a system of independence which nothing else will do.

Thomas Roper, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Roper, Esq.

2249. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your profession?—An Ironmaster; I am Managing Partner in the firm of Harrison, Ainslie, & Co.

2250. Near Furness?—Yes; it is the oldest mining firm in the neighbourhood.

2251. Are your returns very large in the year?—Something like Mr. Schneider's; about 200,000 tons a year.

2252. Where is the largest mining district you have?—We are lessees of the Duke of Buccleugh in Dalton, and Lord Muncaster in Pennington; more than one-half of our ore is got at Pennington.

2253. Are your ores raised by patchwork?—All mining.

2254. In no instance do you contribute to the poor-rate, I believe?—We never have done so.

2255. Is all your mine mixed with coal, or is it independent of coal?—No; there is no coal that accompanies the hematite. Ours is very much like Mr. Schneider's. I can give you the rateable value of the parish of Dalton, if you wish it.

2256. Will you do so, if you please?—I have procured it from the poor-books from 1836 to 1849; there has been no perceptible difference in the value; it runs from 15,000*l.* to 16,000*l.*; it has never increased much. In 1849 it was 17,000*l.* About 1849 the Furness Railway began to bear fruit, and that was rated; that has swelled the rate. That and the increased value of the land, occasioned, as I say, by the mining operations of the district, has increased it to 22,000*l.* It began at 15,000*l.*, and it is now 22,000*l.* in Dalton. The rate has been remarkably uniform; about 1*s.* all throughout.

2257. Can you give me any idea what proportion of the rateable value the land bears?—Yes, I think so: the total acreage, taken from the Ordnance plans of Dalton, is 17,901 acres.

2258. What is the rateable value of the land there?—It seems to me to be something like 1*l.* an acre.

2259. That would be something between 17,000*l.* and 22,000*l.*?—Yes, now.

2260. If that be the case, the land unconnected with the mines is rated to the whole of the poor-rates in the proportion of 17,000*l.* to 22,000*l.* as nearly as possible?—Yes, it is. The acreage of the different parishes in which our mines are situated is 30,000 acres.

2261. The land pays for every miner's maintenance who is thrown upon the parish in that proportion?—Yes.

2262. If he has 22*d.* a week, the land pays 17*d.* towards it; do you think that the land in your neighbourhood is so much benefited by the mines that they ought to pay that?—Certainly; it would be a sad visitation to our country if our mines were stopped.

2263. Do you think that the land would fall very much in value?—Very greatly.

2264. Would not the railway enable the farmers to take their produce elsewhere?—No; they would have very distant markets; Fleetwood would be the nearest, across the bay.

2265. Is there any other district you would refer to?—I will tell you the acreage of the whole district, and the small proportion the mining has disturbed at all. The acreage of the parishes in which our mines are situated is 30,000 acres, and of the whole eight mining companies that are now in operation, they are not disturbing 100 acres; so that I think, if you rated the mines, you would make the 100 acres bear one-third of the whole rates of the parishes; the 100 acres as against the 30,000.

2266. You would make the 100 acres bear a third of the whole?—Yes.

2267. What proportion of poor do these 100 acres give as compared with the

30,000 acres?—We do not admit poor; we have a labouring mining population of 1,400. By consulting the relief list, which I have done, I find we are very light indeed.

2268. It appears that in your district you liberally take care of the poor; we have not had such creditable evidence from any other part of England; but you might have proprietors less kind and less humane, might you not?—Not so long as there was one left of the old concerns.

2269. Suppose you did not take care of your poor, and prevent their going on their parish, what proportion of the poor would that 100 acres give to the 30,000; would they not give five-tenths?—No; about one-third, I should think. In one parish, the parish of Pennington, Lord Muncaster's parish, the rateable value of the property is 2,700 *l.*, and we ourselves pay Lord Muncaster 6,000 *l.* a year royalty; therefore if this Bill came into operation, and we were rated on the 6,000 *l.*, we should be paying two-thirds of the rate of that parish. There is not a single miner now on the rate-book of that parish, nor has there been for the last year.

2270. Then yours is an exceptional case, is it not?—I am glad to say that all our district is the same. If the Bill became general we should be visited for the sins of our neighbours.

2271. The moment you were fixed in that way you would take care to relieve yourselves, would you not?—Yes, I think we should.

2272. Is there any other part of England that you could give us any information about?—No; I have no connexion with any other part of England.

2273. Mr. *Vivian.*] Are there any other points you would wish to explain?—Mr. Schneider has gone so largely into the matter that I do not think I need detain the Committee. The whole of these mining parishes are rated at from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* The only populous little town where there is manufacture also going on, is Ulverstone, and that rate is 2 *s.* 6 *d.* I think that goes greatly to prove that the mining parishes can support their poor at 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, while a manufacturing town has to pay 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

2274. *Chairman.*] There is no power of judging, because you make your poor take care of themselves, do you not, by making them pay so much a month?—We countenance every club.

2275. The miner, by his contribution, meets more than three-fourths of the cost of his maintenance, does he not?—He is entirely maintained out of the funds of the club, when he requires it.

2276. Suppose the fund he pays is not enough, who makes up the balance?—In case of accidents, which is the only serious sudden pull on a club fund, the employer always contributes to the special maintenance of that special case.

2277. Generally speaking, you have a balance in hand, have you not?—Always.

2278. Then it is not you who take care of the miner, but it is the miner who takes care of himself?—Yes, under our advice and encouragement. The miner earns 1 *l.* a week. I may say that I was chosen by the rest of the miners to represent their case, so that you may take my evidence as that of a deputation from the rest of them.

2279. Mr. *Vivian.*] Supposing that system were no longer adopted, do you not think you would pay less wages?—Certainly; we would take care, I think, so to reduce our wages as to get the poor-rate out of the miner while he is able to work.

2280. I think you stated that the rateable value of the parish of Dalton began at 15,000 *l.*, before there were any mines established?—No. I represent a company who have been mining there for nearly 200 years, but to a small extent only; the great advance was made by our friend Schneider, 10 years ago.

2281. At that period the rateable value of property in the parish of Dalton was 15,000 *l.*, was it not?—Yes.

2282. And now it is 22,000 *l.*?—Yes; and a remarkably similar increase has taken place in the adjoining parish of Ulverstone.

2283. What is the increase there?—In 1841 the rateable value was 15,000 *l.*, very much the same as ours, and in 1856 the average quarterly rate is on 21,000 *l.*

2284. That again, in round numbers, is about the same increase?—Yes; and it is altogether attributable to the mining; there is no other thing to which to attribute

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attribute it; the small manufactories I have spoken of are not increased at all.

2285. Mr. *Spooner.*] You do not mean it is attributable to the mine, but to the property that is brought there in consequence?—To the effect of mining.

2286. Mr. *Vivian.*] Has the agricultural portion of the parish been damaged, or the reverse, by the establishment of mines?—At no period have they been so prosperous as they have been since we became so prosperous. The farmer used to send his produce to a distant market, and now he has a market at his own door. He saves the carriage, and many other consequential expenses.

2287. You have been asked whether you think it just that your poor men should be supported by the agriculturists in that parish. I would ask you whether it is not a fact that you employ the poor of the agriculturists?—Decidedly; and we supply the agriculturists in different seasons, such as haytime and the corn harvest, with assistance, which otherwise they would have to get from Ireland or some other place; they came in great batches from Ireland; now our men will take a turn of eight hours; and then they can mow or make hay, or thrash corn for the neighbouring farmers, and they do so.

2288. So that, in fact, you afford employment to the redundant agricultural population of the district?—Decidedly.

2289. Do you employ boys in your mines?—We have some very old men; men who have been with us for 50 or 60 years, who are still earning their livelihood picking ore, and work of that light kind; boys drive gins, and do other light work; we also employ women in the picking of ore.

2290. Probably it is not alone to your taking such good care of your poor, but to the abundant employment which your mines afford them, that the low rates in these parishes are attributable; is that so?—Yes.

2291. You employ boys, women, and old men, who are incapable of other labours, do you not?—Yes.

2292. Suppose you did not give employment to those people, how would they be supported?—These old men are past agricultural work, and the boys are too light for it; they must therefore be supported by their able-bodied parents. I think the effect would be to pauperise the whole district gradually. They are always so well to do, that if they were thrown out of employment for a month, it would not be necessary for them to apply to the parish, because they have a little store in hand; but if we throw the aged on to their sons, and the little boys on to their parents, the parent himself would be a poorer man, and would be more likely in case of illness or accident to go to the poor-rate.

2293. So that, in fact, your mining operations are a great benefit to the agriculturists of your particular parish, inasmuch as you afford employment to their poor and young labourers?—Yes.

2294. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Can you say what was the poor-rate in Dalton 10 years ago?—Yes; that would be in 1847; it would be one of the dear years; it was then 18 *d.*

2295. What was it in 1845?—A shilling.

2296. Can you give the amount of rate from the year 1845; the various years?—From 1841 to 1845 it was 1 *s.*; from 1846 to 1849 it was 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; and from 1850 it has always been 1 *s.*: previous to those dates it had been 6 *d.*

2297. When was it 6 *d.*?—In 1840.

2298. Then the effect of the mining has not been to diminish the poor-rate?—No; the rate has continued very steadily the same. The amount collected being so very little more, shows that although we have increased the population nearly one-half, we have not increased the burden upon the rate.

2299. Was there a surplus population previous to the opening of the mines?—It was a badly employed population, and consequently poor; they were kept from starving. It was a cheap country then, and farm produce was lower priced a great deal than it is now, so that a man could eke out a living better than he could at this time.

2300. Ulverstone has always been a great wheat market, has it not?—Yes; the district of Furness is a very fertile wheat district; the soil is heavy clay.

2301. I think you have stated that you hold your mines under the Duke of Buccleugh?—From the Duke of Buccleugh and Lord Muncaster, the Crown, the Earls of Burlington and Derby, and Mr. Mackinnon, the Member; there are a very few freehold estates; it is mostly copyhold or customary property.

2302. Are

2302. Are those noblemen and gentlemen you have mentioned landowners as well as mineral proprietors?—The Crown has estates of a rental of about 1,000*l.* a year altogether. I think that we are nearly the only tenants that the Duke of Buccleugh has. I should think his surface rental was not more than 150*l.* a year.

2303. He is a mineral proprietor, is he not?—He succeeded to the Montagues; the Dukes of Montague.

2304. What do you pay annually to the Duke of Buccleugh?—It fluctuates between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.* a year; we pay more to Lord Muncaster.

2305. Then as a proprietor the Duke of Buccleugh only is rated on 150*l.* a year?—I should think so.

2306. But he derives a very large income from the minerals, does he not?—He is a very large mineral proprietor in the district. It was noticed that the tramways are rated; there has been 35,000*l.* spent in tramways lately; these are all rated to the poor.

2307. Has that 35,000*l.* been spent by your company?—No, by the joint companies. I would observe that in winter or summer, wet or dry, a man makes his day's work in mines; it is very different from farming.

2308. Mr. *Vivian.*] Is it an unhealthy occupation?—No, certainly not; there are no deleterious gases of any kind in our mines, and an accident very seldom occurs.

2309. Mr. *Cavendish.*] The miners are a very fine race of men, are they not?—Yes, they are a very fine stalwart set of men.

Stephen Eddy, Esq., called in; and Examined.

2310. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—Near Skipton, in Yorkshire.

2311. What are you by profession?—A Mineral Agent.

2312. Are you mineral agent for one company or for many?—I am mineral agent for the Duke of Devonshire and for the Earl of Burlington, and other companies.

2313. Will you explain to the Committee what are the duties of a mineral agent; what does he take upon himself?—My duties are to superintend the mineral property worked by the Duke of Devonshire and by the Earl of Burlington; to advise them as to the letting of those properties, and to see that those properties are properly worked.

2314. You superintend, in fact, the mining operations?—I superintend, in fact, the mining operations carried on by the Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Burlington.

2315. And you advise them as to the erection of machinery?—Yes; in that respect my duties are the same as the managing agent to a company in Cornwall.

2316. To qualify a man to hold your position he must have worked his way up as a practical man, must he not?—Yes.

2317. You have gone through all the grades?—I have, from first to last.

2318. What is the largest mine that you superintend?—The largest mine I superintend is the Grassington mine, belonging to the Duke of Devonshire.

2319. Those are the mines we have heard Mr. Currey speak of?—Yes.

2320. Those are lead mines?—Yes.

2321. In that parish you can speak as to the poor of the parish; is it a parish heavily charged to the poor?—I expected to have had the returns of the rates here this morning; when I came away I had no idea of being examined before the Committee; I wrote for the returns, but I have not yet received them; I know, however, that the rate has varied for many years from 1*s.* to 18*d.*, and I believe it is now 14*d.* in the pound.

2322. You cannot give much more evidence as to the rating of that parish than that which Mr. Schneider has given?—Mr. Schneider has not referred at all to that parish, but to the Ulverstone district, with which I am also connected; it was only Mr. Currey who spoke of Grassington.

2323. What is the amount of your royalty; it is very large, is it not?—The Duke works the mines himself; he is the proprietor.

2324. The profits are very large, are they not?—Now they are; but for many years the Duke worked them at an immense loss. The Duke altogether was out of pocket by the Grassington mines 40,000*l.* before they began to make returns.

2325. What is rated to the poor in your mining district?—Our smelting works

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are rated. Mining in the north of England is different from mining in Cornwall, for miners with us are smelters as well, and our smelting works and everything connected with the smelting works is rated.

2326. The whole plant in every way is rated?—Yes; and the houses we occupy for the men who attend to the smelting works, they are all rated.

2327. At what sum are you rated for that mine?—I believe the smelting works are rated at 25*l.* a year. It is all on the moors; it is wild, uncultivated land. We pay on the smelting works, the cottages, and the plant; we pay to the poor-rates, highway-rates, church-rates, and every other rate. And then at the other mine we have another smelting work, for which we are rated about the same amount.

2328. Have you any railway at all?—Not within 10 miles; all our produce is carted down to the canal, about 10 or 11 miles, and all our coals are brought up from there. The farmers in the neighbourhood are engaged in carting; the whole of the cartage is done by farmers in the neighbourhood.

2329. Have you any idea what amount of tons of ore you raise there?—We raise about 3,000 tons a year; altogether on the Duke's property there will be very nearly 4,000 tons a year raised.

2330. What is the value of your ore per ton?—We smelt a great deal of ore that is not worth more than 40 per cent.

2331. Is it worth 12*l.* a ton, taking one with the other?—Yes.

2332. More?—No, not more; our average produce is about 60 per cent.

2333. What does ore average, generally speaking, in that neighbourhood?—When I first went into the district, 25 years ago, the royalties were a sixth in the case of all the mines except the Duke's, and then we reduced from time to time, and others began to reduce; but at present there are some mines paying a sixth, and some a seventh. I believe the lowest in the neighbourhood is an eighth, with the exception of the Duke's property.

2334. And that you consider a very high royalty?—Certainly it is; and the lessees have to pay rates and taxes of every kind.

2335. If you raise 4,000 tons a year, you pay on a royalty of something like 6,000*l.* a year?—We have given leases to other parties, and the highest is one-tenth, a twelfth, a thirteenth, and in one instance we take as low as an eighteenth. Of course if we had to rate the Duke's mines, I presume we should rate them at about the rate we charge other parties.

2336. You raise about 4,0.. tons a year?—Our produce is about 40,000*l.* or 45,000*l.* worth of lead a year.

2337. But not a farthing of that is rated in any way?—Only in the smelting of it?

2338. And that at a very low rate?—Not very high, certainly.

2339. Taking the houses and plant altogether, do you pay 100*l.* a year?—No, not at present. In another mine we pay more than that, because at the other mine we have entered upon some land that we are obliged to pay for, and there we pay the full value of the land and rates as well; all the land that is occupied for the mines.

2340. You simply pay for the occupation of the land?—Yes.

2341. As an annual tenant would do?—As an annual tenant would do.

2342. What do you do with regard to your poor?—We have very few poor in our district. Mining with us, and in most parts of the North, is very different from what it is in Cornwall. In Cornwall, when a mine is started, a mining population is imported; but with us, we create a mining population; we never employ strangers when there is a person to be found in the neighbourhood who can work at the mines, particularly in the case of the Duke's mines, for he particularly wishes the people of the district to be employed in preference to strangers; we make that a point. When you start a mine in the north of England you generally begin driving a level at the foot of a hill, where generally six or eight men only are wanted, and you can usually find them without any difficulty; and before you want to increase your number, other parties have sprung up who are able to do the work. I have been agent for the Duke of Devonshire nearly 25 years, and I have never known more than two strangers come into the district since I have been there; so that if these mines had not been working, these parties must have been provided for by the agriculturists, or they must have been supported by rates.

2343. Are you not at present taking from the agriculturist labourers that he wants?—Certainly not; ours is a grazing district; there are a very few agricultural

tural labourers employed. I have been in that district at Grassington nearly 25 years, and never during that time could you put down the point of a compass in the village of Grassington and strike a circle, with a radius of 10 miles, and enclose an acre of wheat.

2344. It is a barren district?—Yes.

2345. Mr. *Cavendish.*] It is quite a pasture or moorland district?—Yes; but we have very good land, and the value of that land has been enhanced considerably by the extension of the mines.

2346. *Chairman.*] Is the land of any value as grass land?—Yes.

2347. Is that grass land much improved in value by the mines?—Yes, immensely. I may mention that nearly the whole of the carting, and everything of that kind is occasioned by the mines; the produce for consumption that is brought there comes from Skipton, a distance of 10 miles.

2348. In fact, you find your mines a benefit to the immediate neighbourhood, do you not?—Decidedly.

2349. And cost of maintaining the poor, who require to be maintained in consequence of accidents in the mines, and so on, does not fall heavily on the parishes?—We have a club, to which the men pay, and the Duke subscribes annually; we apply their fines, and everything of that kind, to the club. In the case of an accident occurring to a miner, we support him during his illness; we pay something in addition to the amount he receives from his club.

2350. In fact, you make such provisions as prevent their falling back on the agriculturist for support?—Decidedly; and our club is governed by rules, a set of which I have here. The men take as much interest in the management of this club as any benefit society.

2351. They have a voice in these matters?—Yes; there is a committee of five, three men and two agents.

2352. And the men have a voice?—Yes; and in case of the mine closing, whatever the amount of the fund may be in hand, they participate in the division of it.

2353. Is it an enrolled club or not?—No; the moment a man leaves a mine he ceases to be a member of the society.

2354. Suppose a man has been contributing for, we will say, 10 or 15 years to a club, if he started at the commencement of the club; suppose that that club has a reserved fund of some 200*l.* or 300*l.*, and that the man chooses to change his locality, he having contributed to that club, and the club being in possession of funds more than enough to meet the demands upon it, does he lose all the money he has invested in the club?—Yes; if he leaves the mine he ceases to be a member of the club, and loses the money; but there would be no funds if the Duke did not contribute liberally towards it.

2355. Mr. *Vivian.*] I gather, from what you have stated, that the parish of Grassington is not an agricultural parish?—It is not an agricultural parish, certainly.

2356. And that the value of the land in that parish has been wholly conferred upon it by the proximity of the mines?—Decidedly.

2357. So that the mines have not damaged the owners of the surface of the parish of Grassington, have they?—No; the mines have materially benefited everybody connected with the district.

2358. Even though the miners have not paid rates while the owners of the surface have?—Yes; and if any person were to go into that district and to begin a mine, and a question were put to any persons resident there, whether they would wish to have the mine worked exempt from rates, it being stated that if they attempted to enforce the rates the mine would cease, they would waive their right to rate the mines in order to encourage other parties to open mines.

2359. Do you consider that the imposition of rates would have the effect of discouraging mining industry?—Yes, because in nine cases out of ten the lessor would compel the lessee to pay the rate.

2360. Do you consider, generally, from your knowledge of the west of England, and the north, that an injustice is inflicted upon the owners of the surface, owing to the fact that mines do not pay rates?—I think they derive so much benefit during the working of the mines that there would be no injustice inflicted upon them.

2361. There is no injustice inflicted, you think?—I think there is no injustice at all inflicted.

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2362. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Do you consider that injustice is done to the lords of the dues in Derbyshire by obliging them to pay a rate?—I think they ought to be exempt as well as other parties. I do not know why they are charged with it; it is because they take all dues in kind, I presume.

2363. It is owing to the peculiar custom in Derbyshire of their paying the royalty that the miner does not feel any bad effect from the rate?—The miner does not feel any bad effect there, because it has been the custom from time immemorial.

2364. You manage the slate quarries for Lord Burlington, in Lancashire, I believe?—Yes, I do.

2365. Those quarries are rated to the poor, are they not?—Yes; and that is a case of gross injustice, in my opinion.

2366. In what does the injustice consist?—The whole of the land in that parish is rated at about two-thirds its rental, and they compel us to make an annual return of the full amount of royalty, and they rate us upon that.

2367. Mr. *Spooner.*] How do they compel you to do so?—They call upon us and ask us to make a return of the amount of royalty, and if we did not do that they would rate us at double the amount, until we should have to appeal; so that we are rated at the utmost farthing of the rental, while the land is only rated at about two-thirds its rental.

2368. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Are you rated to the highway-rate also in respect of those quarries?—Yes; we pay nearly one-half of the highway-rates of the parish, and do not carry 20 tons a year on any portion of the road; not 20 tons of material altogether are carried on the road.

2369. Are those quarries in the parish of Dalton?—No; in the parish of Kirkby Ireleth.

2370. Is that a neighbouring parish?—Yes.

2371. Should you consider it somewhat of an anomaly that slate quarries should be rated both to the poor and to the highways, while these rich mines in the parish of Dalton are exempt from both?—I think slate quarries ought to be exempt as well.

2372. There is a very great risk respecting slate quarries, is there not?—Yes, there is; and the Kirkby Ireleth quarries are a strong instance of the effect of such works upon landed property. About 40 years ago there were estates sold and rents fixed; as the quarries became extended the rents became advanced; and now those estates are offered for sale, and we find that the rents since the railway has been opened, and carting done away with, have been reduced fully one-third. During the time there were a number of carts employed on the quarries the rents advanced very rapidly, but since the opening of the line of railway, and since we have made our tramways, the carts have all been thrown out of use, and the rents have been reduced fully one-third in consequence.

2373. The small farmers, in point of fact, paid their rents from the cart-hire?—Yes.

2374. And now the roads are very little used by the slate quarries?—Yes; during the year we do not carry 20 tons, on an average, of any kind of material, and we pay nearly one-half of the rates of the parish.

2375. Is it not the fact that some years ago that quarry was worked at a considerable loss?—Yes, at a very considerable loss; the rate at that time fell upon the parties who were working as tenants; at present Lord Burlington is working the quarries himself, and the quarries are charged with the usual rate of royalty to ascertain what amount they ought to pay upon.

2376. Should you really consider that in a district like Furness, where the rates are low, the incident of the poor-rate on the property would have any considerable influence on the continuance of working either quarries or iron mines?—I think it would operate against speculation; mining, generally, is of such a speculative character, that I think it would be impolitic to rate such property in any shape.

2377. But you think that quarries also should be exempt?—Certainly.

Rees Hopkin Rhys, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Rees Hopkin Rhys, Esq.

2378. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A Mining Agent.

2379. What mine especially have you the care of?—Ironstone, chiefly.

2380. In what district?—South Wales, in the parish of Aberdare.

2381. Have

2381. Have you turned your attention much to the question of rating iron mines?—I have given my attention generally to the subject of rating property to the relief of the poor; in point of fact, I have taken a very active part in parochial matters, and have paid great attention to those subjects.

2382. What is the largest mine you superintend?—The largest mine I superintend personally has produced 5,000 tons a month, or 60,000 tons a year of ironstone.

2383. In that parish what property is rated to the poor?—Land, houses, coal mines, quarries of stone, railways, canals, and so on.

2384. Are the quarries of ironstone worked in patchwork?—Quarries of ironstone are rated to such a trifling extent, that it is merely an admission of the principle that they are rateable.

2385. Those that are rated are open workings, are they not?—Yes.

2386. But your principal iron mining is in close workings, I suppose?—Yes, underground workings.

2387. And they are not rated?—No, they are not rated.

2388. Do those close mines bear a large proportion to the other valuable property in the neighbourhood?—Yes, a very large proportion.

2389. What is the royalty paid for them?—They vary; a large portion of our mine is got from property let under a very old lease.

2390. A lease granted on moderate terms?—Yes, and that is paid by a fixed rent, and not by the ton; they generally average it from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a ton.

2391. Do you see any reason why coal should pay and why mine should not pay?—No; I cannot see any legitimate reason why one description of mine should be rated and not another; but I should tell you this, that at present the mine or ironstone not being rated, is, I think, taken into consideration in assessing the value of the manufacturing part of the works.

2392. The plant?—Yes; the erections and plant; the ironworks are rated at so much a furnace.

2393. You think they lay it on rather stronger upon the furnace in consequence of the ironstone not being rated?—Undoubtedly.

2394. If that be the case, have not the parties the power of appealing?—It would be of very little use their appealing. There does not appear to be any fixed principle for assessing manufactories. I recollect being concerned in an appeal, on one occasion, with respect to a rolling-mill which the Aberdare Company had in another parish; the evidence on our side was that the mill was worth from 500 *l.* to 700 *l.* a year, and the other parish attempted to show that it was worth from 1,500 *l.* to 2,000 *l.*, and the magistrates got over the difficulty by assessing it at 1,000 *l.*

2395. How do you calculate the worth; do you take what it would fetch in the way of rental?—The way in which we attempted to calculate on that occasion was by rating the cost of erection, taking 10 per cent. as a fair rental for the works after they were erected, and then deducting the cost of the annual repairs out of the gross amount.

2396. What royalty does the coal pay there now?—The coal varies from 4*d.* up to 1*s.* a ton.

2397. Then how are the royalties assessed?—I do not admit that we assess royalties at all.

2398. Mr. *Spooner*.] Not of coal?—No; I do not think that royalties are fairly assessed.

2399. *Chairman*.] How are the coal mines assessed; upon what principle?—It has been a matter of compromise entirely in our district; but my opinion as to the mode in which they should be assessed is, that you should ascertain the net annual value beyond the capital which has been laid out in opening the works.

2400. What they would let for?—Yes, beyond the royalty, because I consider that the royalty is an absolute purchasing of the mine.

2401. Still the royalty is made the basis of the rating, is it not?—No; our rate is uniform for the whole of the coal shipped.

2402. How do you manage to rate the coal mines now?—By arrangement; a committee of the inhabitants met, and after a good deal of discussion, it was decided to rate the coal shipped at 6*d.* a ton, and coal used for ironworks at 5*d.* a ton. I think that there should be a greater difference than that.

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2403. It is as to the quantity of coal raised, in fact?—As to the quantity of coal raised.

2404. Only the royalty is a different sum from the other?—Yes.

2405. The royalty varies from 1 *s.* to 4 *d.*, and your tonnage from 5 *d.* to 1 *d.*?—Yes.

2406. The fact is, that you have no system at all?—No fixed system.

2407. Then it is a question of bargain-driving between one party and the other?—It is a case of arrangement.

2408. But before the arrangement is made there is a good deal of bargaining, I suppose?—The only difficulty or dispute we ever had (and that cost us a great deal of money) was with regard to the difference between coal used for iron-works and coal shipped. The sea-coal proprietors alleged that the coal used for iron-making should be rated at the same rate as the coal shipped, which we disputed.

2409. Do you object to the rating of coal at all to the poor's-rate?—No.

2410. You think it is fair to the other proprietors of land that it should be rated?—Decidedly, because they bring so large a population to the district. In point of fact, I do not know what would be the consequence to our parish if coal were not rated.

2411. Coal being rated, you see no reason why ironstone should not be rated?—Certainly not.

2412. Have there been any remonstrances made on the part of the ratepayers, on the ground of the ironstone not being rated?—No; the new iron mines worked underground are excepted. It is a matter of conversation very frequently.

2413. As far as they can, they try to eke it out by taxing the plant pretty high, do they not?—Exactly. The plant used for working mines is exempt, as well as the mine itself.

2414. In some parts of Wales I understand they pay upon the plant?—It is exempt in our parish, and I believe it is legally so at present.

2415. Mr. *Vivian.*] I gather generally from the evidence you have given, that in your opinion in rating ironworks, the fact that iron ore is exempt has been taken into account?—I think so, decidedly.

2416. So that in the event of its being the law of the land that ironstone should be rated, the rates upon ironworks ought to be proportionately reduced?—Decidedly.

2417. But you think it would be very difficult to induce the local authorities to reduce the rates on ironworks?—It would.

2418. How would you propose to get over the difficulty, so as not to inflict an injustice on ironworks?—I think if Parliament should decide on rating ironstone, they should also lay down some principle for rating manufactories.

2419. For rating generally?—For rating generally; it is very undefined at present.

2420. You think it is exceedingly desirable that the general principles of rating should be laid down, but it would not be just to pass a law specially to meet this difficulty about mines?—Yes; unless a general principle were laid down, I think it would not be just.

2421. There are cases, are there not, of iron mines worked in a parish while the ore is smelted in an adjoining parish?—Yes; and very hard cases they are, in my opinion.

2422. The remarks you have made as regards rating ironworks do not apply to those cases?—No, because there are no ironworks in that parish. I will give you an instance; there is the hamlet of Rhigos in our union, which maintains its own poor, out of which Mr. Crawshay gets a very large portion of his iron-stone; his coal mines are chiefly in the parish of Aberdare; his ironworks, the works themselves, are in the parish of Penderrin, in Breconshire; the consequence of no rate being levied upon the ironstone in the hamlet of Rhigos is, that I have known the rates as high as half-a-crown in the pound in the quarter; that is 10*s.* a year.

2423. And you consider that an injustice to the other ratepayers in the hamlet of Rhigos?—Yes; the parish of Penderrin getting all the benefit of the furnaces, being rated at 500*l.* a furnace, they not covering 20 acres of land altogether in that parish.

2424. You consider that you are rated to the transactions of those furnaces to a certain extent, do you not?—Yes.

2425. And

2425. And the mine that passes through them?—Yes.

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2426. So that the parish of Penderrin is receiving, in truth, a portion of the rates which ought to accrue to the parish of Rhigos?—Yes. The lease of those works lately fell in, and the value set by Lord Bute upon the erections and plant was 1,000 *l.* a year, and they are rated at 2,000 *l.* a year.

2427. So that, in truth, they are overrated?—Yes; decidedly they are overrated.

2428. Do you consider that, supposing it were possible to rate the iron mine in the hamlet of Rhigos, the works in the parish of Penderrin would be rated at a less amount?—Not under the present circumstances.

2429. But you consider that that ought to be provided for in case of any legislation upon the subject?—Yes.

2430. Your general feeling is, being largely interested in the working of ironstone, that there is no good reason why ironstone should not be rated as well as coal?—That is my opinion.

2431. But you think that special clauses should be inserted to make it compulsory upon the local authorities to reduce the rates of ironworks, in case of the proposition which has been made passing into a law?—Exactly.

2432. Mr. *Child.*] The mode of rating now operates in this way, does it not, that rating the plant and erections instead of the mine is in fact an equivalent for rating the mine?—Yes; where the mines and the plant are in the same parish or hamlet.

2433. Mr. *Colvile.*] I understood you to say that there was a case of hardship, from the smelting works being in one parish and the iron mines in another, and the coal mines in a third?—Yes.

2434. In what does that hardship consist?—A large number of the mining population being congregated where they get mine from, and there being no rates for it, the rates are very high.

2435. Are all these parishes in the same union?—They are.

2436. Would not that evil be remedied if the principle of union settlements were made the law of the land?—That is a question I am hardly prepared to answer; I do not think it would in all cases do so, inasmuch as there are very extensive iron mines down in the Vale of Neath, the produce of which is taken to Merthyr Tidfil, which is in a totally different union.

2437. But supposing them to be in the same union, if you equalise the rates of the union they would all pay alike, and all would reap the same advantage?—I am not desirous of having that principle adopted in our union, but I am not prepared to say it would not be just at the same time.

2438. Mr. *Williams.*] You are of opinion that it would be very unfair for the landed interest or the agricultural interest to maintain the whole of the poor population of the mining district?—It would be the destruction of property; property would have no value.

Jovis, 25° die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Williams.
Mr. W. O. Foster.	Mr. Colvile.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

William Mathews, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Mathews, Esq.

2439. Mr. *Spooner.*] YOU reside at the Leasowes, near Birmingham?—Yes.

2440. And you are an acting magistrate for Staffordshire and Worcestershire?—Yes.

2441. You are also a very considerable iron and coal master, are you not?—Yes.

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2442. Both your own mines, and mines which you rent?—Yes; in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire.

2443. You are, I presume, perfectly acquainted with the mode in which the rating of coal mines is conducted?—Yes; having been largely engaged in coal mines for many years, of course I have found it necessary to make myself acquainted with the different forms of rating prevailing in different parts of the district.

2444. Is there any regular system of rating mines in Staffordshire and Worcestershire, or is it generally a matter of private agreement?—No, there is no regular system; there ought to be a regular system by which they should be rated, and upon the same principle as is applicable to other descriptions of property, but it is found so difficult to act on any regular system, that its adoption is quite the exception, and a variation from it is the rule.

2445. Will you explain how it is done?—The principle of rating mines, the liability of which to be rated has been established by the 43d of Elizabeth, is this: that when a mine is opened and ready to work, the rental at which that mine would let is the sum on which the rate is chargeable, so that whatever extent of value may attach to a mine by a large expenditure, the rate is payable not only on the mine itself, but on the augmented value created by the outlay in opening it. Whenever the annual value, by way of rental, can be ascertained, that is the sum on which the rate professes to be chargeable, so that whatever difference there may be in the profits of a mine by the person who works it, there is no distinction at all made as to whether the mine is profitable to a small degree, or to a very extensive degree. The number of tons of coal raised is ascertained, a sort of value per ton upon that amount is put upon the mine, and the amount so estimated is that on which the rate is professed to be chargeable. It is found that this principle is very difficult to carry out, as there is in many parishes an indisposition on the part of the coalowner to give in an account of what he raises; and there is so much difficulty in compelling him to give such an account, that in such parishes a sort of rough agreement is made with the other ratepayers of the parish, irrespective of the coal mines, by which a certain amount per ton or per pit is charged, and that constitutes the foundation on which the rate is made. This varies very considerably in different parts of the district of South Staffordshire, so that in the long run we have adopted this rough general estimate of the value of the mines in the different parishes, and the thing, upon the whole, works satisfactorily in that way. The reason why it works so satisfactorily is, that there is a departure from the strict principle of rating mines, the adherence to which is found by experience to be inequitable and inapplicable to the circumstances under which the mines exist.

2446. What is your opinion as to the justice or otherwise of rating any mines at all as mines?—With respect to coal mines we may exclaim against the injustice as long as we please; the law has saddled us with the liability to be rated with respect to them, and therefore it would be in vain for us to cry out against the injustice of the law. The injustice of it, however, I think, will be at once manifest when I state these circumstances to the Committee:—a mine may be of no value at all until it is opened; by the expenditure of a large capital an annual value may be given to that mine, so that, in point of fact, the rate is payable upon the outlay itself, and not upon the property. I put that as an extreme case. There are many cases in South Staffordshire in which, before any outlay is made at all, there is a considerable value attached to the coal itself, particularly in the thick seams of the district; but inasmuch as that value is very largely augmented by the expenditure, the rate, of course, is payable not only on the coal itself, but upon the outlay in making the property productive. Again;—there is another grievance which we complain of. These mines are exhaustible within a very limited period, the time of their duration depending on the rapidity with which they are worked. When they are exhausted, of course, the corpus of the property is defunct; the outlay is comparativly valueless, and no further value is attached to the mine except the conversion of the articles constituting the outlay in the form of old iron and various other matters, which may realise some amount very small compared to the original outlay; so that we pay poor-rates first upon the profit of the mine, next upon the outlay, and next upon the conversion of the mine itself, within a very limited period. We look upon this state of things as a grievous injustice, but we have no means of escaping from it, because the law has established it.

2447. The

2447. The great gravamen of that injustice is, that you are not merely paying on income, but on the destruction of capital?—Yes; it is like the conversion of property by instalments. If I take an estate of 100 acres, and sell one, two, or ten acres of it annually, there is no poor-rate payable upon that. The process of working out a mine is strictly analogous to selling the surface of an estate piecemeal, by annual quantities.

2448. It has been stated in evidence before this Committee, that in some places the result of opening mines has been to cause a great increase of pauperism in the parish in which those mines are situated, and to saddle those persons who are liable to pay poor's-rates with a burthen which would not have existed if the mines had not been opened. Have you any observations to offer to the Committee upon that subject?—I must confine my observations upon that point to those districts with which I am familiar. I know something of South Wales, and of course I know South Staffordshire tolerably intimately; certainly the argument does not apply to either of those districts, because, within my own knowledge the value of land has been greatly augmented by the establishment of mines in the vicinity of it; land assumes a greater rateable value when mines are established than it had before. In the parish of Kingswinford, in which my own mines are situated, that is manifestly the case, because there land is let at a rental per acre which could not be got but for the mines existing there. It is very inferior to land in Essex, which does not fetch half the rental; I take it, therefore, that so far from any injury attaching to the land from the establishment of mines in the neighbourhood, a very considerable augmented value attaches to that land so situated; and if there does come an occasional burthen upon the land, by reason of men being thrown out of employ, that, I think, is amply compensated by the additional value given to the rental of the land, and the additional price which its produce commands.

2449. Have you not in Staffordshire establishments which maintain the sick and infirm, so that they do not practically go upon the parish?—Yes. Perhaps it will make this part of my examination more clear if I put in a paper which I have here. I would first of all explain that the coal mines are rated, and that the surface is rated. The ironworks, which are in close contiguity with and form part of the coal mines in South Staffordshire, are also rated; and in addition to the payment of those rates, we have sick-funds established in the collieries upon this principle, that the men pay so much and the principals pay so much, and out of that sick-fund the men are paid, in case of accident or sickness arising in the mines, and those men are thereby kept off the poor-rate. The first paper I should desire to put in is one giving a statement of the sums paid in my own collieries in the parish of Kingswinford in respect both of poor-rates and highway-rate. I may observe, that by law we are not liable to a highway-rate on coal mines, but by that rough sort of agreement to which I have before referred, the highway-rate is reckoned upon the same principle as the poor-rate; so we pay upon the coal mines for a highway-rate from which by law we are exempt, as well as for a poor-rate to which by law we are liable. The statement I have here shows the sums payable in respect of the colliery and furnaces, both to the poor's rate and to the highway-rate. (*The Witness delivered in the Paper.*)

Vide Appendix.

2450. When you say you are not liable by law to pay the highway-rate, you mean that the law which makes coal mines liable specifies coal mines as being liable to the poor's-rate; but it is not specified that they shall be liable to the highway-rate?—Yes; therefore, strictly speaking, the law has established the non-liability of coal mines to the highway-rate, though it fixes them with a liability to the poor-rate. There is another paper which I should wish also to put in, which states the rateable value of the property in the parish of Kingswinford, in the county of Stafford; it contains a brief division of the different classes of property liable to the poor's rate, and it stands thus: that the rateable value in respect of canals is 5,158*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; the rateable value in respect of land, and farm buildings and tithes, is 9,043*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; in respect of ironworks, &c., 10,071*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; in respect of the produce of coal mines, 14,960*l.*; and in respect of dwelling-houses, &c., 31,051*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* I may observe, that the amount of dwelling-houses, &c., arises in great measure from the great number of workmen's houses, all of which are liable to the poor's-rate, so that that would be considered as a part of the produce of the coal mines and iron mines. The total rateable value is 70,281*l.*

2451. Is that in one parish?—Yes, the parish of Kingswinford; about one-sixth is taken off the rental to get the rateable value. The population in 1851 was 27,303;

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27,303; and the present population is estimated at 30,000. The number of acres is 7,321. (*The Witness delivered in the Paper.*)

2452. The result of that paper is to show, is it not, that the mines, taking into consideration the various assessments made upon them, pay a very large proportion of the poor's-rates of the parish?—Yes. I may state, that in the parish of Kingswinford there is a great geological fault, which crosses the district and divides one-half of the parish from the other, the one-half being occupied by coal mines, and the other being purely agricultural land, under which no coal is believed to exist.

2453. Will you state to the Committee what, in your opinion, that land in Kingswinford would have been worth to let merely as agricultural land if there had been no coal mines?—A good part of it is valuable land, irrespective of the additional value given to it by the coal mines; but above one-half of the land in that portion of the parish is sharp sterile sand, which is rendered valuable by reason of its contiguity to a population from whom large quantities of manure are obtained. Every description of produce is readily saleable, and the agent of the principal proprietor in that district, Mr. Foley, a Member of the House, stated to me the other day that, but for the proximity of the coal mines, the sandy portion of the parish would be worth very little; it lets now at from 25 *s.* to 30 *s.* an acre. I should say, unhesitatingly, that the value of that description of poor land is at least doubled by reason of its contiguity to the coal mines and ironworks. In addition to the two papers I have already put in, there is a third, which I should also desire to lay before the Committee; it is an account showing the payments to the sick at my collieries in Kingswinford; that is, what we pay in addition, of course, to the poor's-rates. It gives an average of 176 *l.* 8 *s.* 3 *d.* per annum, in addition to the sums which we pay in the shape of poor's-rate. The payments stated in this paper are irrespective of the ordinary rates upon the agricultural parts of the surface, which, being in the hands of small tenants, I have no means of stating.

2454. Is it the fact that those payments to the sick have been so long established, and that the custom is so invariable, that it would be impossible now for any mineowner to discontinue making them?—It would be so unpopular a proceeding that no mineowner in South Staffordshire would venture upon it; of course these payments are optional, in one sense. I might stop making them to-morrow; but if I did, I should not like to go very frequently through the district afterwards. The men contribute 3 *d.* each, and we contribute an equal amount.

2455. What would be the consequence if the men refused to pay; would they continue to work there?—No; we should cease to employ them if they did not conform to the regulations of the establishment.

2456. In point of fact, that contribution to the sick is so established a custom that it may be dealt with as a permanent payment, may it not?—Yes; it constitutes quite as strong an obligation as the poor's-rate itself.

2457. It has been proposed to bring all mines into assessment; I presume you would object as strongly to that, or more strongly, than you do to the injustice of which you complain as regards coal mines?—What I should like to impress upon the Committee is this: that there is no doubt there is great injustice involved in the imposition of the poor-rate, not only as regards mines, but as regards many other things on which it is imposed. If you attempt to remedy that injustice by proceeding in the direction of an existing injustice, that appears to me to be a very backward mode of legislation. Admitting the anomalies and the injustice that exist, not only in regard to rating coal mines, but also in rating various other descriptions of property, it would be far wiser, according to my view, to deal at once with the whole question of rating;—to make a calm and dispassionate inquiry into the whole matter, and to adjust all the anomalies together. But with an impression on the minds of men engaged in mining operations like myself, that the impost on coal mines is inequitable, we conceive that to proceed to extend that injustice by legislation to other description of mines, as to which all our arrangements are made without reference to poor-rate at all, would be, in our judgment, an act of very great injustice; and would, we think, be a bad species of policy.

2458. Is there any other observation that you would wish to make to the Committee?—Yes; with reference to what has been stated as to the burden of people engaged in coal mines, being thrown upon the poor-rate, I would observe that it has got so common on the part of the guardians of the poor to deal with colliers as a separate class, that whenever a collier applies to the Board of Guardians for relief, he is refused relief upon the ground that he gets money from

from the sick-box of his employers; and in the case of widows, where it is customary to allow them so much a week until they get work, or are married, or are in a position to get their own living, we have been obliged to adopt this plan: we have been obliged to say, "You must go to the Poor Law Union, and get something from them first; until you get something from them, we will not allow you anything." The sum which they get from the guardians is quite inadequate to their maintenance. They get 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a week at the outside. A woman cannot maintain herself upon that. After they have been to the guardians they then come to us, and we give 3 *s.*, 4 *s.*, or 5 *s.* a week, in addition. We have been obliged to adopt that plan for this reason; that when the guardians were aware that they had got a grant from our sick-box, they refused to grant them anything. We thought this so manifestly unjust, that by the common consent of all parties engaged in these occupations in my neighbourhood, we agree to enforce a payment by the guardians of some amount towards the support of the widows and children, and then to make up the allowance to such an amount as would be sufficient to find them in the ordinary necessaries of life; so that, strictly speaking, with respect to coal mines, the obligations upon the poor-rate for the men are very light indeed. It is very seldom that any applications at all are made to the guardians for relief. Whenever men cease to be employed in one particular spot, employment is found for them somewhere in the immediate neighbourhood; and if there are any aged and infirm who fall upon the poor-rate, they are soon removed by death or other casualties, so that no permanent charge arises to the parish in the district now under discussion. There is no charge made upon the parish at all equivalent to the augmented value of the land by reason of the vicinity of the works and mines.

2459. There is a large outlay of capital also, is there not, in the shape of building workmen's houses on the land, and those workmen's houses are assessed and contribute largely, do they not, to the general rates of the parish?—Yes, all the houses are rated. Every workman pays his own poor-rate. Unless he can show before the magistrates that by reason of his poverty, or some other cause, he ought to be exempt, he pays the poor's-rate the same as any other individual in the parish.

2460. What is the rate of wages that your colliers get?—Many of my colliers, if they like, can get 2 *l.* a week; the rate of wages is 5 *s.* a day for a certain description of work, and of a certain extent; but a man in ordinary health and of ordinary strength can do one-half more than that, so that he can get 7 *s.* 6 *d.* a day; those are the men who are called pikemen, who cut and work the coals, at which an ordinary man may, if he likes, get 2 *l.* a week.

2461. Besides that, do you find them a great proportion of the tools necessary for their work?—Yes, we find them tools, candles, and a certain amount of beer.

2462–3. Can you tell us what they get at your blast furnaces and rolling mills?—We pay them from 18 *s.* to 2 *l.* a week; the lowest rate I have in the ironworks is 18 *s.*, and the highest probably 2 *l.* or 2 *l.* 5 *s.* Those are the blast-furnace keepers; and the better class of mill and forge men get an equal amount.

2464. Are there any other observations which you would wish to make to the Committee?—What I was desirous to show was, that we complain of the unfairness of rating coal mines, and object to extending that unfairness in the same direction as regards iron mines.

2465. *Chairman.*] How many mines are there in Kingswinford?—It is very difficult to say; there are a great number of proprietors and a great number of mines; in an area extending over 7,000 acres, there are at least 3,000 occupied by mines; it is covered all over with mines; the chief seam of coal is 10 yards thick, so that a large quantity of coal is raised from a comparatively small area, and a considerable amount of value is concentrated in a very small space.

2466. Is the fee of this seam of coal in one person, or in many?—In many. Lord Ward is the largest proprietor in the parish of Kingswinford, but there are a great many others. Mr. Foster, a Member of this Committee, has also a considerable property there; and there are eight or ten more of us who are considerable proprietors, besides a number of small ones.

2467. Do the royalties paid to different lords vary in amount?—Yes.

2468. In the same parish?—Yes; if there are faults interposed, or if there is something which throws the water into a particular mine, that will materially affect the royalty; so that there are great extremes, both in the sums paid for royalties, as well as in the amount necessary to be expended to bring the coal to market,

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2469. Is there any variation at all in the royalties, where the accessibility to the coal in different collieries is just the same?—Not much; where the character of the coal and its accessibility is the same, the royalty would be about equal.

2470. In different lords' hands?—Yes.

2471. It does not depend upon the temper or feeling of the lord at all?—No; it depends upon the market value of the mine; we put temper and feeling out of the question; we do not regard that much.

2472. Supposing the circumstances to be the same in that district, do the lessors vary much in the amount of the royalties they require to be paid?—The royalties vary considerably, because the quality of the coal varies so much; the royalty will depend upon the quality of the coal, and upon the difficulty that there is in getting it.

2473. But it depends somewhat upon the temper of the lessor, does it not?—We do not put much faith in that; every lessor likes to get the best rent he can.

2474. But the system is very irregular and very unsatisfactory, is it not?—No doubt it is irregular, but not on the whole unsatisfactory.

2475. Your opinion is, that if matters were arranged properly coal mines would not be rated to the poor-rate at all?—I do not say that; I say the principle should be this: that if a coal mine produces 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* a year, you should invest that in a permanent annuity, and the amount of that annuity is the thing that ought to be rated.

2476. Mr. *Child.*] You would capitalise the rent?—Yes, and then put the rate on the interest of the capital. I would extend rating to every description of income; I hope to see the day when the fundholder will be rated to the poor. I would make the rate as broad and general as possible.

2477. *Chairman.*] You see no reason, do you, why, if coal is rated ironstone should not be rated?—That is a question to which I should be sorry to give a direct and immediate answer; I object to coal mines being rated as they are now rated on principle, and therefore, of course, I object on principle to extend the system of rating to a description of mines which are now exempt by law.

2478. Do you consider it an anomaly that coal should be rated, and that ironstone should not be rated?—I think the anomaly rests with the law; timber and other things would be rated but for the peculiar construction which has been put upon the words of the statute of Elizabeth; because in that Act certain things are mentioned as being liable to be rated, it has been inferred that everything else is exempt. My own opinion is, that the whole of the present system of rating is defective.

2479. I observe that in the return which you have put in, your works are rated upon 1,000*l.* a year; does that mean the plant alone?—Those are ironworks; they are supplied from the collieries; the great outlay is upon the collieries, but the rate falls upon the collieries in the shape of a tax upon the coal, and the ironworks are rated simply as houses or anything else would be rated.

2480. What is the basis upon which the rating upon ironworks is fixed?—There is a great difficulty in establishing any principle, even with respect to ironworks. An ironwork, when the iron trade is good, may be worth 1,000*l.* a year. Let the iron trade be bad, and let that work stop, and the proprietor would be glad to get 200*l.* a year for it; so that an estimate is made thus: what would the ironwork, under ordinary circumstances, let for? that is the amount which the overseer assumes as the amount on which the rate is chargeable.

2481. He does not at all take into consideration the ironstone?—Not at all.

2482. What is the variation of royalty on coal per ton in your district?—From 3*d.* to 3*s.* I know mines that are let at 3*d.* a ton, and I know mines that are let at 3*s.* I believe that, in some cases, Lord Ward gets as much as 4*s.* There the coal happens to be very good and very easy of access, and the market is very advantageous to him. I have no doubt that some of his mines let at 3*s.* or 4*s.* I have let some of my own at 2*s.* 6*d.*, and I am paying 6*d.*; it all depends upon where the mine is situated, and whether the coal is easy to be got at, whether it is near a good market, free from water, and so on.

2483. Taking the royalties to vary from 3*d.* to 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.*, are they assessed to the poor's-rates in the same way?—Very much; it is the custom to take the quantity of coal raised, without regard to its quality or to the cost of raising it, and to put one against the other; possibly one person possessing mines worth 3*s.* may possess others worth only 3*d.*

2484. Taking

2484. Taking a district of that kind, where it varies from 3 *d.* to 3 *s.*, what is the average charge per ton that is assessed?—It would be difficult to say; but I should think about 2 *s.* or 18 *d.*; I speak, of course, with some degree of reserve upon that point, because I have not sufficiently investigated it to be very positive, but I should think it would be about that.

2485. You said just now that, in consequence of the existence of some geological fault, one part of the parish was of a purely agricultural and the other of a purely mineral character?—Yes.

2486. Where is the bad land, of which you have spoken, situated?—That is situated upon the part that has no minerals under it; at the same time, there is a great deal of good land there. The surface varies very much. In the valley there is very valuable land, where there is no mine under it, but the hills are sandy and unproductive; the quality of the land also varies very considerably, and it would be difficult to draw a strict line having reference to the one or the other.

2487. What is the use made of the more valuable description of land?—They grow barley and turnips chiefly on the sandy land; the more valuable land is grazing land.

2488. Are the occupiers of those lands dependent entirely upon the miners for the sale of their produce?—No; on the contrary, there are very good roads; there are railways and canals; it is open to all the world almost; we get all the early description of vegetables from 30 or 40 miles off, out of the lower part of Worcestershire or Oxfordshire.

2489. Then these good lands are independent of the mines?—Yes; but the rental of them is increased by the vicinity of the mines. I think I have stated that I have let land myself, on a limited scale, at 3 *l.* an acre. I was over some land in Essex a short time since, on an estate belonging to a friend of mine, where the land was immensely superior to mine, and where the rent was only 25 *s.* an acre; and on making inquiry as to the cause of the dissimilarity in the rent, I found that everything could be sold in my immediate district, from a cow to a blade of straw, while there they had to send their produce up to London, and their straw was wasted by the cattle treading upon it; so that straw, which in our neighbourhood would fetch 2 *l.* 10 *s.* a ton, was there worth only 15 *s.*

2490. If your mines were to stop, what would become of your straw?—The stopping of our mines is a thing which we do not contemplate; they have gone on for a great many years, and we hope they will go on for a great many years to come. The stoppage of the mines is no doubt a possible, but not a probable case. If the mines, or if any large establishments in a manufacturing district, were to stop, there is no doubt that the effect of that would be, *pro tanto*, injurious to the neighbourhood; but in our district such a thing is so unlikely to happen, that we do not at all contemplate it as a probable occurrence.

2491. How much in the pound is the poor-rate in your district?—Two shillings.

2492. Has it varied much in the course of the last few years?—No; we have gone on for a considerable time at about that rate.

2493. How long have these mines been in work?—In my own immediate neighbourhood they have been in work for about 30 years.

2494. Do you know whether the poor's-rates have increased or diminished since that period?—I am not disposed to think that they have diminished; but I must give that answer with considerable reserve, because I am not positive upon that point.

2495. As I understand, if an accident occurs in any colliery or iron mine, and if, in consequence of that accident, it is necessary for the widow and children of a miner to seek relief, they are obliged, before they come to you, to apply to the parish officers?—Yes; they get a limited allowance; nothing equal to the cost of their maintenance; but we think it our duty to get as much as we can for them, and then we allow them a great deal more than we get from the parish; that is only in the case of widows and orphans.

2496. If a man loses his life in your iron mines, your iron mines paying no rates, the other rateable property in the parish has to give support to his widow, has it not, in the same way as it would give support to the widow of any other person in the parish?—When you say the iron mine paying no rate, you will bear in mind that the surface under which the iron mine is pays a rate. In the case you put of a man being killed in the iron mines, leaving a widow, the

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widow goes in the first instance to the guardians, and gets an allowance from them before we will give her anything.

2497. Is the allowance given by the guardians to the widow in that case less than the allowance which is given to the widow of an agricultural labourer?—I cannot say much about that; I can say this much, that what the guardians give is as little as they can possibly screw it down to.

2498. I suppose you have a certain scale of allowance to widows?—I believe so; but I was never very fond of the new poor law, and I never attended much to the working of it.

2499. You do not know, as a fact, that they exercise more economy in the case of the widow of a miner than in the case of the widow of the agriculturist?—I think it may be assumed that they make no difference between the two cases.

2500. Then it comes to this, does it not, that when a man has lost his life in the service of the proprietor of an iron mine, which pays nothing towards the poor-rate, his widow is at once thrown upon the ratepayers, who are in no way connected with the mine?—Exactly, under certain circumstances; but if, as is frequently the case, the widow is left with children who are able to work, the parish refuse to give her any allowance. It frequently happens that they have little boys, and of course the first consideration we have to give to the case is to see how far we can employ them; we employ them when we can, and that, of course, is a saving not only to the parish, but to the poor-box; because if they have two or three boys who are able to work, the aggregate of their wages is sufficient to maintain the widow without any allowance at all.

2501. You have said that if a man does not pay his contribution to the poor-box, you dismiss him?—Yes.

2502. Is not this the fact, that in your payments to him you withhold from him the amount of the subscription which is due from him?—It is generally stopped out of his wages; but that is done with his consent; he may refuse to allow it to be stopped.

2503. Did you ever know an instance of the kind?—No; nor is such a thing at all likely to occur; it is not likely a man would set himself up in opposition to the established rules of a work, where the object of those rules is to benefit himself and his fellow-workmen.

2504. You do not object to the rating of mining property, whether coal or iron mine; will you have the goodness to explain again in what manner you would propose to rate it?—When you say I do not object to the rating of mining property, whether coal or iron mine, I answer that I do object to it unless you rate every other description of income; but in the peculiar case of coal or iron mines, the plan I would recommend would be this, that the annual amount received from those mines, should be considered the principal; and the interest of that amount, I think, should be considered the sum on which they should be rated, the principal going to recoup the coalowner for his outlay in the purchase of the property. I think they should rate the interest where they now rate the principal, both in the case of coal and in the case of iron mines. I do not think there would be any objection to extending the rate to iron mines, if the principle of rating were extended on this basis.

2505. You treat every ton of coal or iron taken away as so much of the fee subtracted and sold?—Yes; as it forms part of the corpus of the estate.

2506. Seeing that it is not a reproducing property?—Yes; when once a mine is exhausted, there is an end of the matter.

2507. Have you ever heard of any complaints being made by the agriculturists; are they annoyed at all at having to bear a portion of the burden of maintaining the poor occasioned by your mines?—Not at all; the whole arrangement is one which has been made in co-operation with the agriculturists; the plan which happens to obtain in the parish of Kingswinford is not established in every parish, but there is a sort of bargain made with the agricultural portion of the parish: "If this is the amount which we pay for the mines, are you content?" If they were to say, "No; we shall insist on rating coal mines to the utmost possible extent," the coalmasters would say, "Then we will stop our sick-boxes, and throw the whole of the poor on your parish; you shall take your choice, and adopt which ever alternative you choose." The fact is, that the agriculturists are perfectly satisfied with the arrangement which is at present in existence.

2508. Are these arrangements the effect of fights which have taken place at earlier

earlier periods?—No; the whole thing has been conducted, as far back as my recollection carries me, in the most amicable manner. There has been no great grumbling; it has happened, within my recollection, that the agricultural interest itself has been in a very depressed condition, and we have augmented the rates in order to relieve them. There has been no hostile difference of opinion between the parties.

2509. There is no ill-feeling on the part of the agriculturists?—Not the slightest.

2510. Do they fancy that you give more than you are bound to give?—No; the whole thing is one of perfect unanimity between the respective interests.

2511. But there is no regular basis on which the thing is founded?—No; the whole affair is a departure from regularity; it is only regular in its irregularity.

2512. Mr. *Child.*] Is there no ill-feeling with reference to keeping the highways in repair?—No; the agriculturists said, very properly, "You draw a great deal on the highway; what you draw is very heavy, and it is fair that, as you so use the highway, you should contribute something towards its maintenance." That appeal we felt to be irresistible, and we consented to pay the highway-rates with respect to our coal mines as well as with respect to other descriptions of property.

2513. What is done with regard to iron mines?—They are not rateable, and, therefore, they do not come into the book at all. There is no new law of rating brought into operation.

2514. You pay a voluntary rate, in fact, then?—You may call it so. It is established by custom.

2515. I understand you to say that the royalty of the mines is not taken as the base of the assessment; that is not the element which is considered?—No, that is not the element which is considered, for this reason; that the royalty itself shows only imperfectly what the actual rent of the mine is. The rent of the mine is taken after the outlay has been made, but the royalty is settled by the lord previous to the mine being opened.

2516. I understood you to say that it was the quantity of coal raised, and not the amount paid for royalty, that was the basis upon which the assessment was made?—It is the assumed royalty.

2517. It is not the actual royalty, but a rough average?—Yes.

2518. You consider that the rating upon coal, as it at present exists, is a gross anomaly, do you not?—It is a great injustice and an anomaly altgether.

2519. And objecting to one anomaly, you would object to two?—Yes; we do not like to see two negatives converted into an affirmative. We conceive that you ought not, because you have gone wrong in one direction, to go wrong in another, with a view to set the matter right.

2520. Mr. *Foster.*] With reference to a widow applying for relief. The question which was put to you by the Chairman seemed to infer that the ratepayer derived no advantage from the iron mines which are not rated. Is it not a fact that the blast furnaces and plant used in converting the ironstone into iron contribute to the poor-rate?—Yes, they are all rated.

2521. Therefore there is, indirectly, a considerable amount of revenue accruing to the poor-rate from the iron mines, in consequence of the blast furnaces and plant employed in their conversion being rated?—Yes, as well as the surface under which the iron mines are situated.

2522. In addition to the buildings?—Yes.

2523. And the highway-rate is on the basis of the poor-rate?—Yes.

2524. *Chairman.*] Both the royalty and the rates are, in a great measure, based on tonnage, are they not?—No doubt they are.

2525. Do you make use of the canals at all for your coals?—Yes.

2526. Without the canals, would your collieries be as valuable as they are?—Certainly not; the establishment of canals, and, subsequently, the establishment of railways, has, no doubt, augmented the value of mines very considerably.

2527. If you say that the agriculturists, because agricultural land is greatly enhanced in value by reason of the existence of your mines, ought cheerfully to pay the rates, why should you be exempt from rating when canals, which greatly enhance the value of your mines, are rated? Your argument is, that the landed property in your immediate neighbourhood is greatly increased in value by the existence of your collieries, and therefore that the possessors of it have no reason to grumble at having to pay the poor-rates?—Yes.

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2528. Canals are heavily rated, and they very considerably improve your property?—Yes; and we improve the property of the canals too; there is a reciprocal benefit. The canals are benefited by the tonnages they receive from the coal mines, and of course in respect of that tonnage the canal is liable to pay rates.

2529. I find that the canals in your neighbourhood are rated at 5,000 *l.* a year? Yes.

2530. They very much increase the value of your ironstone and coal, do they not?—I do not know that they do increase the value of our ironstone; it is only the coal that is sold to the market that passes along the canal. The canal is used for a vast variety of purposes, irrespective of the iron mines.

2531. Is the canal of no benefit to the ironworks?—Yes, it is a great benefit to them; it takes away our iron when it is made.

2532. That which benefits you is taxed, and made to contribute towards the poor-rate?—Yes.

2533. But the ironstone itself is not taxed?—No, but the ironworks are.

2534. Your plant is taxed?—Yes, the plant, and the surface, and the outlay is taxed.

2535. But the iron ore is not taxed?—That is not taxed; by the law iron mine is not rateable.

2536. What is the rateable value of the ironstone and the coal?—I should say that if you go by the ton, the rate of royalty is very nearly the same; the rate of royalty upon ironstone varies from 6*d.* to 3*s.*

2537. Have you as much of the one as you have of the other?—No; there is infinitely more coal than ironstone: the royalty upon the coals would produce an enormously larger amount than the royalty on the ironstone.

2538. Would the royalty on ironstone produce half?—No, not a sixth part in our district. In other parts of the district it would; ours is especially a coal district; in other parts of the district ironstone is paramount to the coal, and would pay a larger amount, if it were rateable in the shape of poor-rate, than coal would.

2539. Mr. *Child.*] In a question put to you by the Chairman, it seemed to be assumed that it was a grievance that the canal should be rated, and that the ironstone should not be rated; a large portion of ironstone is brought by the canal, is it not?—Yes.

2540. *Chairman.*] Is it not the fact that the import of ironstone is very essential, because your supply of ironstone there is not equal to your supply of coal?—Yes, we import large quantities of ironstone.

2541. The canal is of immense value to you in that way, is it not?—Yes.

2542. Mr. *Spooner.*] I understand you to say you object altogether to the system upon which property is at present assessed to the poor?—When I say I object to it, I mean it varies so much and involves so many anomalies, that in my opinion the sooner it is revised the better.

2543. You think that there is now a great deal of property which at the time of the passing of the Act of the 43d of Elizabeth, did not exist, but which now ought to be brought within the operation of the law, and made to contribute generally to the poor-rate?—I think so; perhaps I may be allowed to add with reference to the subject of this inquiry altogether, that it will of course afford the public a great deal of valuable information; but I should be sorry to see the proposition to rate ironstone mines acted upon, because I think the effect would be to postpone the general revision of the assessment to the poor-rate indefinitely; I should much rather see a larger and more general measure introduced than that which is contemplated by this Bill.

2544. *Chairman.*] Have you read some of the evidence which has been given before this Committee?—Yes, a good deal of it.

2545. It opens up this one fact, that in all the districts we have gone through as yet, the anomalies are very great?—Yes. There is one other subject which I have not mentioned, and to which perhaps the Committee will allow me to refer, and that is, that under the existing leases, the non-liability of iron mines to the poor-rate has given them an increased value; they would have less value if a liability to contribute to the poor-rate were imposed upon them. There is generally a clause in the leases that the lessee shall be liable to all existing imposts, and any others that may be hereafter imposed except the income tax; of course, under those leases, the lessees would be liable to pay all poor-rates that might be imposed upon the ironstone, although they have taken their leases upon terms which

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did not contemplate the poor-rate at all; I think that would be an injustice to the lessee, who would be less able to bear it than the lessor.

2546. Are the lessees so much pressed, that that which you consider to be an injustice would be very severely felt by them?—I am a lessee myself, and I should be sorry to make a crying grievance out of such a case; no, in the ordinary state of the iron trade, the lessees do not cry out very much; it is the principle that we look at. To a certain extent, no doubt, it would be a burden which was not contemplated at the time they took their leases.

2547. Would a small imposition so far diminish their profits as to make it a matter of serious moment?—I should not like to argue the question on the score of degree; but were the principle established, it might operate very grievously in certain cases, though in other cases it might not be felt to be so onerous as it is generally asserted it would be. I think, however, that it would be dangerous to establish a principle of which you cannot see the definite end and effect.

2548. In your district the collieries have been profitable, have they not, taken as a whole?—It has happened to me to know a good deal of the collieries in South Staffordshire, because I have not only been engaged in working them, but I have acted as umpire and arbitrator very frequently where there have been mining disputes; and I have found a great many cases in which not only no profit was made, but a very grievous loss was sustained. Upon the whole, they have been profitable, but of course many instances have occurred in which large amounts of money have been expended on collieries which have turned out to be wholly unproductive.

2549. Where they have turned out unproductive, have they entailed much loss upon the ratepayers by the introduction of paupers?—Not at all, because the people who have been thrown out of employment at those particular collieries have been taken up by other collieries in the neighbourhood, so that no extraordinary burden has been thrown upon the agricultural portion of the population.

2550. Mr. *Foster*.] In point of fact, there is rather a demand than otherwise for colliery mining labour, is there not?—Yes; we have no instances of burthens being thrown upon the land in consequence of mines having turned out unproductive.

2551. Mr. *Spooner*.] And those unproductive collieries have largely contributed, while they have been working, to the poor-rates of the parish, have they not?—Yes.

2552. *Chairman*.] Is the establishment of a new colliery generally considered by the agriculturists living in the parish in which it is established as a boon, or otherwise?—As far as my experience goes the farmers, except as regards any trifling damage that the miners may do by crossing their fields, breaking their hedges, and so on, are glad to see collieries established.

2553. And you know of no district having become pauperised in consequence of the establishment of a new colliery?—Certainly not, according to my experience.

Richard Smith, Esq., called in; and Examined.

2554. Mr. *Spooner*.] YOU reside at Dudley?—Yes.

2555. You are a Magistrate for Staffordshire, I believe?—I am.

2556. You have the management, have you not, of the very extensive mineral property in that neighbourhood belonging to Lord Ward?—Yes, I have.

2557. Have you heard the evidence which has been given by Mr. Mathews?—I have.

2558. Do you disagree with anything which Mr. Mathews has stated in his evidence?—I think that in the main we agree in everything; there may be some parts of his evidence that I did not distinctly hear, but I agree with all I did hear.

2559. You cannot point out anything in which you disagree?—No, I cannot

2560. What is your opinion with regard to the manner in which coal mines are now rated to the poor; do you think the principle just or unjust?—They all profess to be rated under one Act of Parliament, the 43d of Elizabeth; but I know of no two parishes that are rated alike.

2561. In the parishes to which you allude are they generally rated by agreement between the mineowners and the other parishioners?—They are very much so;

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so; they take the number of tons and turn them into money, but they do not all turn them into money upon the same principle.

2562. What do you mean by turning them into money?—They take every ton of coal at one price, lumps at another price, and slack at another price; in one parish they will rate a ton of coal at 10*s.*, in another at 8*s.*, and in another at 6*s.*, and so on.

2563. You take that to be the value of the coal, and upon that value of the coal you fix that which you presume to be the royalty, and that royalty is the basis of the assessment?—Yse.

2564. You take the average value of certain quantities of coal, and comparing that with the quantities raised, you presume that the rental, or what ought to be the royalty of it, amounts to a certain sum?—Yes.

2565. And upon that royalty you make the assessment?—Yes.

2566. Can you state what the average price of coal is in these parishes?—I should first say that the coals differ in quality very much; when they go to market the good coals get the better price, and the inferior coals get a less price; but if they were to be rated at per ton without regard to their value, it would be a great hardship upon the miners; if they were to be rated according to their real value there would be a considerable difficulty in it; if it were determined to rate mines generally, it would be difficult, I think, to find what is the real value of a ton of ironstone or a ton of coal in that district; for there is 10-yard coal which in some places is very good, while in other places it is scarcely fit for the market at all.

2567. Then the number of tons raised is no proper criterion on which they should be rated?—Certainly not.

2568. When mines are rated to the poor, do you not conceive that they are rated upon the destruction of the capital, rather than upon the income arising from that capital?—I think so.

2569. You do not think that just, of course?—I do not.

2570. Taking that view, although by law you are compelled to submit to that rate as far as coal mines are concerned, you are unwilling that the principle should be extended to other minerals?—Just so, for I think it would lead to very great confusion; I am not very much against rating the produce of the district fairly, if the rate can be made to apply to every individual; but I do not think that either in the case of coal or in the case of ironstone it can be so; it is rather different in the case of limestone.

2571. Limestone is rated, is it not?—Only when it is quarried; not when it is mined.

2572. Does that which is quarried form any considerable portion of the Dudley limestone?—There is very little quarried.

2573. What is obtained from quarries is assessed?—Yes; it must be remembered also that, in the case of limestone, you rate the miner for the surface, because in a state of lime it is considered to be manure.

2574. It has been suggested that the opening of collieries has had a tendency to saddle the adjoining parishes with a great increase of pauperism; is that the case according to your experience?—It has no doubt produced a great increase of population.

2575. But has it produced much pauperism?—There is an increase of population no doubt, and pauperism arises from various causes; there is no occasion for much pauperism if the men would work when they might work, but they have a rule in the coal pits not to work on Mondays, and sometimes not on Tuesdays; they will only work about four days in the week.

2576. In the mines which you superintend, have you not rules and regulations with regard to sick clubs, out of whose funds you support your poor?—Yes; there is a box put up, generally speaking, by the butty collier, who employs the men in getting the coal, and whatever he gets in the way of subscriptions the coal-master pays the same amount into the box, and generally it falls upon the coal-master at last to make good any deficiency that there may be; the men get about 6*s.* a week when they are ill, or when they have anything the matter with them from accident or otherwise, and if they die, their wives are provided for; that is the case at all events with regard to the club-boxes that I have anything to do with; the wives are provided for, and the children also, more or less; but we have a great deal of difficulty with the parishes; they like to know what the people are getting from the club-boxes, and until they know that they will not

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give them any relief at all in many instances; we are, therefore, obliged to refrain from giving them any relief until the parishes have decided what they will give, and then we add to that what we please; that no doubt is a very great hardship upon the poor people.

2577. What is your opinion with regard to the additional value given to land in a parish by the opening of mines?—We find, generally, that the rental of land increases.

2578. Largely?—Yes, largely.

2579. Is there any great amount of additional building in the shape of workmen's houses?—Yes; there is a large amount of additional rent for workmen's houses.

2580. And are those rents all assessed?—They are all assessed.

2581. They, therefore, contribute very largely to the poor-rates of the parish?—They do.

2582. That being the case, do you not wish to modify your former answer, in which you said that the opening of mines greatly increased the amount of pauperism in a parish; whatever increase of population they may bring, do not those points to which you have just now adverted tend greatly to decrease the charges upon the parish rather than increase them?—Yes.

2583. There is land of very various quality, is there not, in the parishes, the mining operations of which you superintend?—Yes, so much so, that in some instances land will be worth from only 10*s.* to 20*s.* an acre, while other land closely adjoining will be worth 3*l.* or 4*l.*

2584. Taking the low-priced land, what would that have been worth if there had been no mines opened in the neighbourhood, and if no population had been brought there by the opening of those mines?—Very little; some of it scarcely anything; some of it has been improved a good deal by under-drainage; but it would be of very little value indeed if it were not for the mines.

2585. What is your opinion with reference to the proposition to extend the rating on coal mines?—There would be a difficulty in it from the difference that there is in the quality of the ironstone.

2586. You mean there would be a difficulty in finding out how properly to assess it?—Yes; in some cases it takes between three and four tons of ironstone to make a ton of iron; in other cases it does not take above 25 cwt.

2587. In addition to that, do you think it would be just to rate iron mines?—I think it would be very unjust in one respect; it is the raw material of the iron; and to tax the raw material is not very usual in Old England, I think.

2588. In point of fact, you destroy capital by using up the ironstone; do you think it would be fair that that destruction of capital should be rated in the same way as a farm is rated, which is a permanent property, producing a permanent annual income?—A farm is generally let according to its annual value, taking every field on the farm at what it is worth; but in the case of an ironstone mine there has been a great amount of capital laid out in sinking pits, in laying down railways, in cutting land to pieces, in forming roads, and so forth; and unless we get that money back again, it is lost for ever; the corpus of the property is gone for ever, and the greater the expense has been the worse it is.

2589. Under those circumstances, of course, you would say it is unjust to rate property so situated in the same way as you would rate permanent property producing an annual rental?—I should say so. I heard the examination of Mr. Mathews, relating to the canal. Canal property I take to be a permanent property, that can be handed down from father to son, but a coal property cannot; in a few years it is worked out, and then the capital which has been expended upon it is gone.

2590. What is the usual rate of wages in those parishes in which mines are opened?—Wages are very high.

2591. Do they rise in consequence of the mines being opened?—Yes; men flock there from agricultural districts in all parts of the country. When a colliery is going to be opened, you see them coming from all directions, in order to get the advantage of being employed at a higher rate of wages.

2592. Do you know what the rate of wages generally is in the parishes you superintend; what does a collier get?—We have a great many collieries; which parish do you allude to?

2593. The parishes generally which contain the collieries you superintend?—

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The stinted men have 5*s.* for so much work, and they are able to do sometimes half as much more.

2594. How much are their average earnings?—About 2*l.* a week when they choose to work.

2595. And do you usually find them their tools?—All their tools and candles.

2596. And beer?—And beer.

2597. What is the average rate of wages among agriculturists in those parishes?—In the districts of the collieries they get from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s* a day.

2598. Then your opinion is, that the opening of a colliery, so far from bringing a burden upon the parish in which it is opened, on the whole so much improves the property as to counteract any evil effect, and that the agricultural portion of the population and the mines each bear their full share towards the maintenance of the poor?—That is my opinion.

2599. *Chairman.*] Do I understand from you that the working miner gets in the iron mines about 40*s.* a week?—The thick-coal collier I was speaking of.

2600. Have you any iron there?—Not in the thick coal; above it and below it there are seams of coal.

2601. It is not worked?—It is worked occasionally. There they get less money.

2602. What do your iron men get?—From 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a day, and those who are not stinted will get more: they work 12 hours.

2603. It comes to this, does it not; that a labourer who works in the coal mine gets about 24*s.* a week, and the agricultural labourer gets about 15*s.*?—From 15*s.* to 18*s.*

2604. Then the agriculturist has not only to take care of his own poor, but of the collier, who gets 24*s.* a week?—I did not understand your question; I thought you were speaking of the agricultural men, who come from a distinct district.

2605. An agricultural labourer gets about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, does he not?—But he gets a great advantage from the employment of his horses, and he has facilities in various ways; they all like to be near a colliery; they take farms that are near to collieries, and will pay a higher rent for them than others.

2606. You were speaking just now of lime; you have open works, have you not?—No.

2607. Has Lord Ward no open works at all?—No; his Lordship's limestone is all got by mining.

2608. And none of it pays to the poor-rates?—No, I believe not; I do not think that there is any in England that does.

2609. Has he any ironworks worked by open work?—No, he has not.

2610. Then no lime and no iron pays to the poor-rates?—No.

2611. Do you know any open works at all there?—Not in that district.

2612. Do you know any elsewhere?—There are open works of quarry or building stone.

2613. Not of the ironstone?—No; there may be some, but I am not aware of it; it is just possible that in the outcrop of some measure it might be open for a short distance, but it goes down rapidly.

2614. In your district have you any ironstone mines at all?—Yes.

2615. Are they the same proprietors as the proprietors of the coal?—Generally so; but not altogether.

2616. Do you know any instance in any parish in which the lessors are different, where one is a coal mine and the other an iron mine?—Yes.

2617. Do you think it fair that the coal mine in that district should pay to the poor, and that the iron mine should go free?—I do not think it is fair that we should pay for the coal in the way in which it is rated at all.

2618. Suppose in the same parish there are two lessors of mines; one the lessor of a coal mine, and the other the lessor of an iron mine; do you think it fair that the owner of the coal mine should be taxed to the poor, and that the iron mine should go free. I do not ask you, whether you think the coal mine ought to be taxed; but the coal mine being assessed to the poor, I wish to know whether, in your opinion, the lessors or the leesses of the coal mine have not a right to complain that they pay to the poor, while the lessors or the lessees of the iron mine do not pay to the poor?—No case occurs to my mind at the present moment in which the owner of a mine who has ironstone has not coal also, because they are in seams one above another.

2619. It is a very possible case, is it not, that in the same parish there may be a coal mine heavily taxed to the poor, belonging to one person, and a good rich iron band of good mine belonging to another person, which is worked largely, but which does not pay to the poor?—It may be so, but I am not aware of it, because the coal and iron go together in that district.

2620. In the district you speak of, is the land very good?—Some of the land is good, and bears very goods crops where it is not injured by the pit mound; in other parts it is very indifferent indeed.

2621. Has it been enhanced in value by the presence of the collieries?—Very much so.

2622. And do they depend for their sales upon the miners?—Very much indeed.

2623. You hold that a colliery is a boon rather than otherwise to a neighbourhood?—I should think very much so.

2624. And that it is likely to be so for years to come?—As long as the coal lasts.

2625. And is the coal holding on largely?—Yes.

2626. It is not likely to cease for many years, I suppose?—No.

2627. Is there any complaint by the agriculturists that they pay more than their fair share to the poor-rates?—I never heard any complaints of that kind.

2628. Have you any difficulty in adjusting the rate, as far as the plant goes, in the ironworks?—No, I am not aware of it.

2629. They rate the works?—Yes, they are all rated.

2630. On what basis are they rated?—A party goes there and tries to estimate the value of them, and to bring the value down to a standard.

2631. Is there much dispute about it?—No, I have never heard much dispute.

2632. There is no appeal to the petty sessions, is there?—No; I do not know that I ever heard of any appeal.

2633. Have they been raising the rate by degrees on your ironworks and plant, or not?—No; they are pretty much as they have been, so far as I know.

2634. What does your poor-rate amount to in the pound?—About 1*s.*

2635. Mr. *Foster.*] You mean per annum?—Yes.

2636. *Chairman.*] How often do you collect your rate?—It depends on how often it is levied.

2637. Is it 1*s.* in the pound on every rate?—Yes.

2638. How many rates are there in a year?—Sometimes two and sometimes more; two or three sometimes.

2639. What does it amount to in the pound in the year?—About 1*s.* in the pound in the year.

2640. I suppose the whole district is assessed at 10,000*l.* Is it 500*l.* a year, or what proportion would it be?—Not so much as that, not on ironworks.

2641. What does your general poor-rate, taking the whole parish, amount to?—That I am not prepared to say.

2642. Taking the whole as a body, are there more poor connected with mines, or are there more poor connected with agriculture?—I should think there are more poor connected with mines, very much more.

2643. Taking your district as a whole, is the assessment at large derived more from coal or from land?—I should think quite as much from the one as the other; but there is a large amount that is never collected at all. All the smaller ratings are not collected at all. I do not mean to say there are no exceptions; but the overseer, in going round to collect, goes to those who pay largely, who are chiefly the iron and coal masters, and then when he has got as much as his parish wants from them, he gets the other excused.

2644. Does he go to the magistrates, and do the magistrates excuse them?—They say they are so poor that they cannot afford to pay; but it saves the overseer a great deal of trouble that he would otherwise have to take in going round to collect it; they are very favourable to the overseer; they crowd round him.

2645. What is the amount do you think that is excused on an average in the year; some hundreds of pounds I suppose?—Yes, I should think so, in some of the parishes.

2646. And do the other ratepayers acquiesce in that?—They are chiefly men having business engagements, and do not attend the vestry meetings much.

2647. Is it your small miners' houses that are excused generally?—Very much so, I should think.

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2648. I understand the majority of your poor are miners?—No; they are iron men, as well as miners, to a great extent.

2649. Coal and iron?—Yes.

2650. In your parish the assessment is as much upon farming as upon mining property, is it not?—I cannot say exactly; but there is a portion of each.

2651. Many hundreds a year, you say, are excused to the poor miners?—Not so much in our parish.

2652. But a large sum?—The mining and iron works extend over many parishes.

2653. So that, in point of fact, the agriculturist maintains, in a great measure, your poor arising from your iron mines; and he pays, also, a great part of the rates that are charged upon the miners?—Certainly not; I did not say that; I think the case is the other way; I think that the agriculturist gets more excused on that account by the large demands that are made upon the ironmasters for rates and levies.

2654. Who are the parties that are excused?—The poor.

2655. Are the poor who are excused connected more with the mines, or with agriculture?—It is a very difficult matter to determine that; but I should say, both of them.

2656. The population is principally mining population, is it not?—In some parishes.

2657. Is it an unfair inference to suppose that the cottages belong to the miners more than to the agriculturists?—In some parts of the parish; Kingswinford, for instance, is divided into two parts by a great geological fault; on the one side they are almost all agriculturists, and on the other side they are almost all miners of iron mine.

2658. Taking the mining side of the fault, is your population much more dense there than it is in the other part?—Yes.

2659. Are the parties who are excused more miners than argiculturists?—Yes, they are there; but the agriculturists are excused too.

2660. But the bulk of the population is among the miners?—Yes, it is.

2661. Then, do you think, as far as rating goes, that the land is assessed almost in an equal ratio with mines?—The land is raised in value very much by the mines. I will put it in this way; the land had been rated for many years before the mines came there. I do not think that those rates are increased, although the rents may be increased; and I do not think that the population of the agriculturists is increased, except in the case of those who work for the mining districts by means of additional horses upon their farms.

2662. I must come back to my old question, as to the relative value of the property assessed; mineral property and agricultural property, as I understood from you, you fancied that one property was just as valuable as the other, as far as the assessment to the poor went?—No; I could not say that; I do not think it is; I could not tell that; I am not prepared to answer that question.

2663. Are you confining your observations to the same district as that to which Mr. Mathews referred?—The south-east district; but I do not take it as a whole district, for I am not acquainted with the whole of it.

2664. How are those parties you have named excused from their rates; are they summoned before the magistrates at petty sessions?—No; I think the surveyor strikes them out himself, and the rates due from them are not collected at all or asked for. I know many instances in which they have not been asked for the money, and then a new rate is made, and the large ratepayers have to pay it.

2665. Taking your poor as a whole, who work both in coal and in iron mines, they are generally, with what they subscribe themselves towards the box, together with what you as proprietors give them, fairly provided for, are they not?—I think they are.

2666. And you do not let them go, in case of an accident, to the parish: the only parties you compel to go there are the widows?—We send them tickets for the hospital sometimes, and we pay the medical man entirely; and we have dispensaries for any ordinary sickness, and so on; they have tickets for those generally.

2667. It is not felt by the agriculturists as a grievance that they pay more than they ought towards your poor?—I never heard of that at all.

2668. Mr. *Child.*] Suppose the case of land of equal value in a parish with mining operations, and in a parish where there are no mining operations, in which parish

parish would the land let the highest, the land being of equal value?—The land where there are mining operations. *R. Smith*, Esq. 25 June 1857.

2669. Mr. *Foster*.] With respect to that part of the population who are excused from the payment of rates, they are the very poor in the parish, I suppose?—The very poor.

2670. In a mixed district, where there is a mining and an agricultural population, it would be those who are in receipt of very low wages, and who are considered unable to pay the rates, that would be excused?—I should say so; and those who might have work, but who do not attend to it, and then get poor.

2671. Judging from the evidence which has been given before the Committee, the mining population would seem to be an extremely well-paid population while they are in work; and by them, I suppose, and by the men in the ironworks in full work, the poor-rate is paid?—Yes.

2672. Therefore it is not merely the mining population, but it is those who, from age and infirmities, and from their being unable to follow their occupations, or who have sufficient cause to show they are unable to pay, that are excused?—Those are the people who are generally excused. I hardly ever hear of a person being pressed for it.

2673. Mr. *Cavendish*.] When you speak of the injustice of applying the same principle of rating to mines as is applied to other property on the ground that the corpus is exhausted, have you considered that the poor-rate is merely an annual charge to meet the annual wants arising among the poor, and when you say your property is not of a permanent character, have you considered that you are not required to subscribe to any permanent object?—It certainly seems to me to be a great hardship that the corpus of the property should be treated in the same way as that which is permanent; for instance, if I have an estate that is full of mine, and I sell it, there is no poor-rate upon the same; but if I get it by the ton and send it to market, then there is a poor-rate upon it.

2674. The person to whom you sell the property might be liable to a rate, might he not?—But he is not so.

2675. But if mines were made rateable, he could be so?—Yes; if they were made rateable, no doubt.

2676. Has it ever occurred to you to look at it in this way; that where you work mines you bring a large population together, and for your own immediate profit, you are rapidly exhausting the mines and employing the population, and that some day possibly the burden of supporting that population may be thrown upon the land?—It is a population that would be likely to go away if the mines were worn out. If the mine was all got, it is a population that would be likely to move further on where they were working mines elsewhere.

2677. You depend on that population always finding employment?—They would move on with the opening of collieries works; they would not remain there to be paupers.

2678. But supposing that the population were not to find employment in other mines, they would be thrown upon the land, would they not?—There is no doubt of that.

William Mathews, Esq. again called in; and further Examined.

2679. *Chairman*.] I SHOULD like to have your opinion upon this point. Suppose the rating were confined entirely to mineral property in a mineral district, and it were extended from coal to ironstone; but that it was based on a new principle; suppose the corpus question were well considered, and that you dealt with the question upon the assumption that part of the fee is absorbed each year under certain circumstances; do you think that if it were considered in that light, it would create anything like dissatisfaction in your district?—No, I do not think it would. If we had the principle before us, so as to have an opportunity of examining it, there would be, if we found it equitable, no objection to it; but it is difficult to answer the question generally, unless I knew the precise form in which you would propose to deal with the imposition. *W. Mathews*, Esq.

2680. I merely ask what would be your opinion supposing both were to be rated, but under such circumstances that due consideration should be given to the corpus question. You and I might differ on what might be proper; but I want to know whether or not you think that rating in that way would be disagreeable to the large owners of coal property?—I think not. I think they

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are perfectly willing to consider any fair and equitable mode of extending the rating, provided the whole question were put on some equitable basis.

2681. Should you think this ought to be an element in the consideration, namely, that, in order to see if a new estate can be created (because if you find coal anywhere, you do create a new estate), due consideration should be given to other ratepayers as to whether or not certain burthens for the time are not entailed on them in consequence of this attempt to create a new property?—That is a sort of hypothetical question, and it is very difficult to answer questions of that sort with any degree of accuracy. I should say there is no indisposition generally on the part of the mineral owners of South Staffordshire to entertain an extension of the mode of rating mines, provided the whole question of rating mines is duly considered with regard to its equitable bearing on mines generally.

2682. Mr. *Child.*] You would not be satisfied with a mere adjustment as to the rating of mines?—No. If you are going to adopt an equitable principle, I would say, "Make the basis as wide as possible; do not confine it to mines alone, but extend it to other species of property that ought to be rated equitably as well as coal mines." The Chairman has suggested a sort of restriction to which he would confine his area of rating; I would extend that area. If it were to be confined exclusively to rating iron mines, I should say there would be no indisposition to distribute the burdens which now attach exclusively to coal over other mines, provided it is done on an equitable basis.

2683. *Chairman.*] I know your feeling is in favour of having it extended generally; but I asked whether, if it were limited to mineral property alone, and due consideration were given to the corpus question, there would be any dissatisfaction if the rating were extended?—I do not think there would: of course, when the Bill came before The House, if we did not like it, we should make a fight upon it.

2684. Mr. *Child.*] Do I understand this from you, that whereas now an occupier of coal and ironstone pays, we will say, 100*l.* a year to the poor-rate, which is assessed entirely on his coal mines, he would have no objection to pay 100*l.* a year when levied upon the two?—No.

2685. But he would object to pay 200*l.* a year?—Yes, no doubt.

2686. Mr. *Williams.*] You consider it unjust, do you not, that the burden of maintaining the whole of the poor of the mining district should be thrown on the agricultural district?—I certainly consider that it would be unjust if it were so, but I know of no case in which it is. In our district we come in contact with no such cases; but if such cases were to arise, I should admit the injustice of it at once.

2687. Then you would not consider it just that the poor from the iron mines should be exclusively maintained by the agriculturists?—I should think certainly not.

Thomas Wynne, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Wynne, Esq.

2688. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you by profession?—I am Government Inspector of Mines.

2689. Does that mean that you are inspector of property connected with Government?—No; it is under a special Act of Parliament.

2690. What is the date of the Act of Parliament?—The 18th and 19th of Victoria.

2691. Prior to that, what was your occupation?—I was engaged in collieries; I was the managing partner in a colliery.

2692. Where?—In North Staffordshire.

2693. Had you ironstone there with the coal?—Not in the colliery that I was connected with.

2694. To what colliery especially did you give your attention?—I have a general knowledge of the whole county, from having been inspector for the last five years; in South Staffordshire for four years, and in North Staffordshire the whole of the time.

2695. Can you give us the name of the parish in which there are the largest coal mines?—The largest coal mines in North Staffordshire would be in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent; the largest iron mines would be Wolstanton.

2696. Are the mines at Stoke-upon-Trent exclusively coal mines?—They are not; they are part coal and part iron mines.

2697. Are

2697. Are you speaking of one parish?—Yes.

2698. Do you know the area of the parish?—I do not; it is a large parish, and is a union of itself.

2699. Is it partly an agricultural parish?—It is.

2700. Do you know the amount of the assessment to the poor-rate of the parish at all?—No, I do not; I know the amount of the rate, but I do not know what the assessment is.

2701. What is the amount of the rate?—The average would be 3*s.* in the pound.

2702. You do not know at all what amount has been paid, do you?—I do not.

2703. Are there more proprietors than one of coal there?—Yes, there are many.

2704. Is there more than one lessor?—Yes, there are a vast number of lessors.

2705. Do you know whether the royalties vary much?—They do; the royalties vary according to the situation of the mines; according to whether they are well situated for sending the stone to the canal, or the coals to the manufactories, and so on.

2706. Do you know how much the royalties vary?—They vary from about 8*d.* per ton up to 1*s.* 6*d.*

2707. And how are they assessed to the poor?—They are taken at about one-eighth on the selling price generally; they send out circulars to the coal proprietors, and obtain a return of the number of tons sold, and generally they assume the royalty to be about one-eighth on the selling price; it is easy to ascertain what is about the selling price; that is about the proportion in which they are rated, taking one-sixth off the gross amount.

2708. How do you rate the land there?—That is rated on the same principle.

2709. You take off one-sixth there?—Yes, and so as to the buildings; my opinion is, that it is not fair to rate the coal proprietors on the same scale they put upon buildings.

2710. The ironstone is not of course assessed?—It is not.

2711. Have you any lime there?—Yes; not in the parish, but in the district; and there is a complaint made that the ironstone that is got by open working has to compete with ironstone that is got as Lord Ward's is.

2712. Have you much open work?—We have large ironstone works.

2713. Have you any open work?—Yes.

2714. All those pay to the poor, do they not?—Yes.

2715. That is not in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, is it?—No.

2716. Are your farms large in Stoke-upon-Trent?—Not very large.

2717. Are they dependent much upon the mines?—No; they are dependent more upon the pottery population, the earthenware manufacturers, and china.

2718. They are in a great measure independent of the mines, are they not?—They are, as regards the sale of their produce.

2719. Did you ever hear the agriculturists complain as to the mode in which they are rated to the poor?—They complain very much of the inequality of the rating, that the ironstone mines are not rated with other mines, and with them.

2720. Do the coal proprietors complain?—All parties complain who are not ironstone getters.

2721. In Stoke-upon-Trent is the ironstone very considerable?—It is.

2722. Can you give a rough guess as to the relative value of that property and the coal property?—The coal property is about two-thirds, I think, the value of the ironstone property, or perhaps rather more; I cannot give what goes out of the parish, but I can give you what goes out of the immediate neighbourhood, and I find it is something like 350,000 tons a year.

2723. Mr. *Spooner*.] How many parishes are there in the district?—There are three parishes where the chief part of the mining goes on; there are five where there is a good deal of mining; but the most extensive is in three parishes; I had better perhaps say five.

2724. What are the three principal ones?—Stoke-upon-Trent, Wolstanton, and Burslem are the three principal ones.

2725. Can you state what is the amount of coal that is sent out of that district?—The ironstone sent out of the district is upwards of 300,000 tons.

2726. What is the amount of coal that is sent out of the district?—The amount of coal sent out of the district is but small; the consumption of coal is great in the neighbourhood.

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2727. You do not know what quantity is sent out?—The consumption of coal altogether is about 2,000,000 of tons.

2728. Can you at all speak of the relative value of the two properties, the ironstone and the coal?—I cannot; there are hardly any means of doing so, because they are opening every day, and the ironstone is becoming more valuable a great deal.

2729. Have you any open working of ironstone in that district?—There has been some; but I do not think they are at work now.

2730. Have you any lime?—Not in those parishes; there is in the district.

2731. That is taking the whole district of North Staffordshire?—Yes.

2732. The whole of that district?—Yes; in all the returns I have made, I have generally taken in that district as particularly defined.

2733. Mr. *Child.*] What parishes would you include in the district?—Stoke-upon-Trent, Burslem, Wolstanton, Norton, Audley, and some others.

2734. Mr. *Spooner.*] Leek?—No; Ipstones and Kingsley; but I do not think there is any ironstone got in Leek parish.

2735. *Chairman.*] Have you any open work in the North Staffordshire district?—Limestone, not ironstone; there is a great deal of limestone.

2736. Have you any limestone close work, as well as open work?—We have not.

2737. Then your limestone is ratable to the poor?—It is.

2738. What is the basis of the rating there?—It is taken upon the royalty on the number of tons sent away.

2739. What is the royalty generally?—It is very low; I cannot give the royalty; but it is a very low royalty, because it has to be sent in a large quantity to South Staffordshire, and the Railway Company and the Canal Company are proprietors of the quarry.

2740. Whatever the royalty is, is the quarry rated to the poor on the whole of that royalty?—It is.

2741. If the royalty is 2 *d.* in the ton, it is rated at 2 *d.* in the ton, is it?—It is.

2742. Do the proprietors of the quarry complain that they are rated to the poor?—I should not be at liberty to say so.

2743. Do they feel it a grievance in any way?—They do.

2744. Mr. *Child.*] Have you heard that from the directors of the North Staffordshire Company?—No; but from the parties who work the quarry.

2745. But the North Staffordshire Company work the quarry, do they not?—It is let on a royalty, at so much a ton for getting.

2746. But the North Staffordshire Company are the occupiers of that quarry, are they not?—They are.

2747. *Chairman.*] Is that the only open quarry you know?—It is.

2748. Of any kind?—There is more limestone got besides that got by the North Staffordshire Company; Mr. Bowers has works there.

2749. Does he send out a large quantity?—Not very large; he is more in the lime trade than in the limestone trade.

2750. But still he pays a royalty?—Yes.

2751. At what rate per ton, do you know?—I do not.

2752. You have no ironstone quarry?—No, not at work.

2753. Taking the whole of that district, do you think the value of the land for agricultural purposes is equal to the value of the mineral property of the North Staffordshire district?—Yes, quite.

2754. From your experience, do you believe that, taking that district generally, the paupers who apply for relief come more from the mining districts than from the agricultural districts?—Those who are occupied in mining are much more liable to accidents than those who are employed in agriculture. I find, on examining into the matter, since there has been such a great increase in the get of ironstone, the number of accidents has so increased that one out of three is an ironstone case, that is, taking all the mine accidents that have occurred in two years; of the whole of the inquests in the two parishes I have taken, I find that nearly one-half are mining accidents; and out of those one-half of mining accidents, a third of the number occur in ironstone pits.

2755. Have you been able to ascertain whether, generally speaking, the parties suffering from those accidents, and their families have been maintained by the mines,

mines, or by funds of their own?—I found that in one parish which I had an opportunity of inquiring into there were in two years 154 cases of relief.

2756. In what parishes?—In the parishes of Wolstanton and Burslem.

2757. Those were mining cases?—Mining cases.

2758. In two parishes?—Yes, in two parishes; and out of those, I ascertained, by referring to the returns that I had had made of accidents, and by inquiry, that fully one-half of them had occurred in ironstone mines.

2759. Then out of 154 cases of pauperism in the two parishes, half of the number arose in iron mines?—Yes.

2760. Which iron mines in no way contributed to the relief of the poor?—Just so; and it was still harder in that district; for there is a colliery in one field, and an ironstone mine in an adjoining field; the one contributes largely to the poor-rate, while the other contributes nothing; the poor-rate in Burslem is 5 *s.* in the pound; they have to contribute in respect to one strip of land, and for the next strip of land, under which there is very valuable ironstone mine, they pay nothing.

2761. You have a coal mine contributing largely to the poor, and in the same parish you have an ironstone mine, which ironstone mine, I understand from you, employs a great number of people, but does not contribute a farthing to the poor's-rate?—That is so.

2762. Which of those two mines do you think sends most poor to the poor's-rate?—I think the ironstone mine, and for this reason, that the ironstone miners are not so good a class of men as the colliers; men who have been brought up from their childhood to be colliers will not become ironstone getters if they can help it.

2763. They are a grade above them?—Yes; and I find that in the ironstone mines that I go into there are a vast number of Lancashire men, Welshmen, and different men from out-neighbourhoods.

2764. Independently of that, is the nature of the workings in an ironstone mine more dangerous than in the other?—No, I do not think so.

2765. But you do not think they are so expert about the work?—You asked which class, in my opinion, brought most cases; it is these casual people; they are not of such good character, they are not such good men.

2766. Those of one class migrate, and the others do not?—That is the case.

2767. Have you ever heard any complaints made on the part of the colliers that they have to pay to the poor-rates?—Very great complaints.

2768. They feel it to be a very great grievance, do they?—They do.

2769. Have you ever heard that the agriculturists complain also?—Yes; I have been present at a time when they would not repair the road for the mineowners. I heard a case discussed before the magistrates where the farmers would not repair the roads for them to draw their ironstone along until they were summoned before the magistrates.

2770. And then they were obliged to do it?—They were obliged to do it.

2771. So that not only have they to maintain the poor, but they have also to maintain the highways?—Yes; and in some cases at an expense of 200*l.* a mile.

2772. Is this iron mine you speak of making very large profits?—I cannot say that.

2773. You inspect the mine, do you not?—I do; I take the district generally.

2774. What is the quality of the ore?—It is very good.

2775. Is it hematite, or not?—No, it is the black band.

2776. Do they work it there, or export it?—They export it chiefly.

2777. What is it worth a ton there?—From 12 *s.* to 14 *s.*

2778. What is the royalty to the lessor?—From 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

2779. Are you at all able to state what are the profits of the mine there?—No, I could not do that.

2780. But, as far as you see, the band is thick, and it is making large returns?—Yes; the people are very anxious to take it when there is any to take.

2781. At any rate, you have very good reason to suppose the undertaking is a profitable one?—I have.

2782. The coal mine pays to the rate?—Yes.

2783. You have no mine that pays to the rate, have you?—No.

2784. Is there good land there?—The land is but indifferent.

2785. Is it much enhanced in value in consequence of the presence of mines there?—

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there?—I do not think it is very much, because the trespass that is committed on a farm where there are ironstone mines and coal mines is enormous.

2786. Is the parish to which you refer a large parish or not?—Wolstanton is a large parish; Burslem is not so large.

2787. I am confining myself to the parish in which you have got this iron mine and coal mine side by side?—That is Wolstanton, more particularly.

2788. Is there much land there independent of mining land?—Not much; the mining is spread over it, but the largest amount of ironstone is got in that parish.

2789. Have you any idea of the relative value of the ironstone and the other property in that parish?—No; I did not inquire into that.

2790. Taking it generally in the North Staffordshire district, have you heard complaints made on the part of those who pay poor-rates, that the ironstone is free?—That is a very general complaint, and particularly with coal proprietors if they have no ironstone, because they pay what they say is double what they ought to pay, or more than that, and the other pays nothing. I think they are perfectly justified in complaining, for I consider that a coal mine pays much too high a rate; because if you take a coal mine that is paying 1,000*l.* a year royalty, they do not perhaps turn over more than 10,000*l.* a year. If you take a manufactory that is paying 1,000*l.* a year rent, they probably would turn over 50,000*l.* a year.

2791. Then you think the coal, first of all, is very hardly taxed?—I do. I do not go the length that Mr. Mathews goes, when he says it should be capitalised; because when a colliery has ceased working, it would cease paying; it is not a tax, it is merely a local burden.

2792. But still you think it is a great hardship that they should pay, do you not, inasmuch as the other does not pay at all?—Yes; I think it is a very great hardship.

2793. Have you given your attention much to the question of the rating of mines?—I have given it a good deal of attention; I have had my attention very often called to it, and have seen the wrong that is done to parties, because the ironstone is got in one parish and sent to another place to be converted; for instance, in the district to which Mr. Mathews has referred, the neighbourhood of Brierley Hill or Kingswinford, there, he has told you, they get but a small quantity of stone; but out of North Staffordshire they send an immense quantity there to smelt; therefore, if they are paying rates on their furnaces, they are paying it in the wrong parish, because they are paying it in the place where it is converted, and not in the place it is taken from.

2794. And where the accidents occur, and where the pauperism is created?—Yes; and where the roads are cut up, and where police are wanted, and so on.

2795. In fact, in those places in which a large quantity of ironstone is raised, it is shipped and sent away, and in the parishes where it is manufactured all the rate is paid for the plant?—Yes; there is a large population springing up in the Churnet Valley, where they are getting ironstone, and not paying a farthing to the poor-rate, except on the machinery.

2796. In that parish are they creating a great deal of employment for the poor of the parish itself?—They are.

2797. So far they are a benefit to that parish?—Up to the present time, except where it falls on a particular liberty to keep the roads in repair, which is a source of great annoyance to the parties; there are small liberties, where it takes double the money to keep the roads in repair that was required previously, and the stone pays nothing for that.

2798. Is it your opinion, from your experience, that wherever an iron mine is worked, that iron mine should contribute to the maintenance of the poor which it creates by bringing a population there, and by the accidents occurring in that mine?—Undoubtedly that is quite my opinion.

2799. Is it the general opinion, as far as you know, of all parties except those who are immediately interested, that they ought to pay; is that the opinion of the ratepayers generally?—It is.

2800. Mr. *Williams*.] You say that in two parishes there have been 154 cases of accidents in the course of 12 months?—In two years.

2801. In two parishes?—Yes.

2802. And I think you said that of the poor in those two parishes more than one-half were connected with the mines?—No; that of these 154 cases one-half occurred in ironstone workings.

2803. Do

2803. Do you know what is the relative proportion of the whole of the poor population employed in mining and in collieries, as compared to the agricultural poor?—That is not within my means of ascertaining. I have taken the inquests as a guide.

2804. You think it would not be just, do you not, for the poor and the hurt of the iron mines to be maintained solely by the poor-rates raised from coals and agriculture?—I do.

2805. You think it would not be just?—I think it is not just to them. I have had the means of ascertaining that there have been 120 inquests in the North Staffordshire district in the course of two years, and I have examined into them and found that out of those 120 inquests a third of them were in consequence of accidents in ironstone mines.

2806. Do you not consider that it would be unjust and unfair to tax the agriculturist and the royalty on coals to maintain the poor in those cases?—I do; I have over and over again heard the coal miners complain of it.

2807. Mr. *Child.*] How many iron mines are there in the district you speak of that are not connected with coal works?—There are a good many; for instance, the White Barn is a case in point, and Knutton, where the land is only 30 acres; they are paying 1,000*l.* a year royalty; the farmers in the district pay the whole of the rates, and the worker of the mine pays none, except on his machinery.

2808. Have they no coals?—No.

2809. Have they no red shag coal?—Yes; they use that for calcining.

2810. Do they not pay rate upon that for calcining?—No, they do not.

2811. Mr. *Spooner.*] How is that?—I do not know.

2812. Do they get that by open work?—No, by pits.

2813. And they are not assessed?—No, because they do not sell it. My opinion is that at present they ought to pay on the increased value of the calcined stone.

2814. Mr. *Child.*] Do you mean to say that none of those parties getting coal pay rates upon their coal?—Not unless they dispose of it otherwise than calcining.

2815. You have mentioned two collieries which are merely ironstone collieries; what others are there besides those two collieries connected with coals?—There is Williamson's, of Yeld-hill.

2816. They are as large coal-getters as they are ironstone-getters, are they not?—They get more stone than they do coal. Then there is Mr. Netherwood of Tunstall, who gets a large quantity.

2817. Is not the largest proportion of ironstone raised in those parishes, raised from works that are connected with coal mines?—Yes, to some extent, but the ironstone is the greater proportion.

2818. Is not the larger quantity of the ironstone that is got in that district, gotten from works connected with coalworks?—A good many get both.

2819. The larger proportion?—Yes, the larger proportions are not where they are getting ironstone exclusively.

2820. But you admit that the larger quantity is gotten from works which are connected with coalworks?—Yes; but more than half the collieries have no stone.

2821. Mr. *Foster.*] You have spoken of the coal mines contributing, and the iron mines not contributing in certain districts; are those worked by the same, or by different parties?—It applies in both ways; the upper series of coals have ironstone with them; the lower series have no ironstone. Perhaps in twenty measures, ten measures of coal have no ironstone with them, and there are ten that are connected with ironstone.

2822. In all these cases the mines have been leased to, or purchased by the workers, on the understanding that the coal is liable, and that the ironstone is not liable to the poor-rates; is not that the case?—Yes; and I think that in the event of any alteration, that should be taken into account.

2823. You have stated that you have given some attention to the subject of the rating of mines?—I have.

2824. Have you any plan in your own mind as to any equitable system of rating minerals?—My opinion is, that coal mines ought not to be rated on more than one-half or three-fourths of the royalty that they pay; whereas now they are taken at five-sixths of the royalty.

2825. Therefore you consider that the coal mines in the district of which you are speaking pay now too high a rate, irrespective of the exemption of the iron mines?—I do; but then the rating of the stone mines would very materially assist

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the general rate, so that if it were altered to a less rate upon coal, and the ironstone were to be rated as well, it would still be a relief to the poor-rates.

2826. But I gathered from you that you were decidedly opposed to extending the present system of rating coal mines to ironstone and other mines; the same principle which now exists in assessing the value of coal mines you object to extending to the rating of iron or other mines?—I think it is a great injustice on coal mines for ironstone mines to be exempted. They are badly treated now, even if stone were rated, and it would be continuing this great injustice if ironstone mines be not rated as well.

2827. You have stated that in your opinion the coal mines pay too high a rate?—They do.

2828. At present?—Yes.

2829. Totally irrespective of the question whether iron mines bear a share, or otherwise?—Yes.

2830. Therefore you are opposed to extending the principle of assessment which now exists as to coal mines to the ironstone or other mines?—Certainly.

2831. You are opposed to the mode of assessing?—I am, decidedly.

2832. You are opposed to extending to ironstone mines the mode of assessment now adopted as to coal mines?—Yes; if they are to be rated, I think that a very different principle ought to be adopted in rating them.

2833. Have you in your own mind formed any idea as to an equitable system of rating minerals?—I think that if they took off one-half instead of one-sixth, it would be something like an equitable system; for I am quite aware that the whole amount raised is not paid upon; but then I think it would be.

2834. Therefore, from the nature of mining operations generally, any new arrangement as regards the rating of mines would open the whole question as regards the present mode of rating coal mines?—Yes, I think it should.

2835. And it would demand very serious consideration before any system as to rating mines generally could be adopted?—Yes, I think it ought to be fairly considered. But you are doubling the injustice now upon coal mines by continuing the present system; they are not only badly treated under the present law as regards their own rating, but it is also increased by the ironstone not being rated at all.

2836. In general you consider mines, whether iron or coal, a benefit to a neighbourhood in respect to employment?—I do.

2837. And the injured miners, whether from the coal or ironstone pits, have the benefit of the sick-fund connected with the colliery, as well as the benefit they derive from being in other clubs?—That does not apply generally; unfortunately in North Staffordshire it is not so general as it is in the south. In North Staffordshire it is a very precarious subscription that is got up for them; they do not pay regularly every week, as they do in the south of the county. There are exceptions, and very honourable exceptions; but the way in which they raise money in the north of the county is by the men giving their 6 *d.* or 3 *d.*, or what they like, on a Saturday night, when a man has been injured. They do not pay anything if there is not a man ill.

2838. Mr. *Child.*] Is there not generally a colliery club?—No, very seldom. When John So-and-so is injured, it is told them, and one puts down his 6 *d.*, and another puts down his 3 *d.*, and so on.

2839. Mr. *Spooner.*] There is no regular system?—No.

2840. Mr. *Foster.*] The ironstone mines, you say, only pay on the machinery?—No.

2841. I suppose they pay with respect to the surface?—The surface is seldom in their hands; they generally pay a trespass to the farmer.

2842. But the surface is liable to the poor-rate?—Yes.

2843. In the case of the agriculturist, he pays only upon his surface I suppose, and upon his buildings?—Only upon the surface and buildings.

2844. If he is the owner of the land he does not pay upon the timber taken from the surface?—No, I think he does not.

2845. Or from the produce of the surface in the shape of his crops, or anything grown thereon?—No; I do not think there ought to be any exceptions.

2846. You think it not only opens the question of rating mines generally, but that the consideration of this question actually opens the whole system of rating?—I think all exceptions to rating should be done away with.

2847. Are you aware that in mines there is a peculiarity attaching to them, that

that whereas timber may grow again, the mine being, as it is termed, the corpus of the estate, is not reproducible?—Then as against that you have the fact, that it ceases to pay when you cease to get the coal; this being a mere rate from year to year, as soon as the coals are got the rate ceases to be paid.

2848. If it is paid upon the value it is actually paid upon the fee?—I do not think it ought to be paid upon the value; it ought to be paid upon the converting to use.

2849. Are you aware that generally in the iron districts, where the coal and iron are associated, large works and steam power have to be erected for the purpose of getting, and converting those mines when got, into a marketable commodity in the shape of pig iron?—Yes, it is so, where they are got and converted.

2850. In your own district of North Staffordshire, that is the case at many of the works, is it not?—Yes.

2851. I mean works where they convert the ironstone into pig iron?—Yes.

2852. The White Barn Company have furnaces at Fenton Park, have they not?—Yes; that is quite a different holding; it is some miles away. The ironstone got from White Barn is sent to South Staffordshire to be smelted.

2853. But in those cases in which the iron mine is worked on the spot, it is necessary for that working that very expensive plant should be erected, is it not?—It is.

2854. And that plant is liable to assessment?—Yes; that is, on the conversion.

2855. The plant itself is chargeable to the poor-rate?—I do not think that applies to the getting of the mine; that applies to the converting of it from stone into iron.

2856. But I am directing your attention to a case in which the iron is converted; in such cases, in any general arrangement of this subject, the rating of that expensive plant, looking at it as only of a temporary value, namely, a value so long as the mines continue, should not be to the same extent as the rating of buildings and other things, such as a manufactory which has a permanent and continuing value in itself?—But it is not always dependent upon the mines in that particular place where this plant is, because, if I am rightly informed, there are some furnaces, for instance, in South Staffordshire that buy everything, or nearly so.

2857-8. Perhaps having coal near at hand?—Yes; not of their own.

2859. And therefore, not having the advantage of ironstone, they are obliged to purchase?—Yes.

2860. But on the exhaustion of the mineral which they have, namely, the coal, the value of their plant is comparatively gone?—Yes. Then I look at this, that in taking the produce of the mines from one district to another, they cut up the roads which they use to carry the ironstone to convert into iron in a distant place, without contributing to the local burdens.

2861. I gather from your evidence, that in your opinion coal mines pay too high a rate at present?—Yes.

2862. Totally irrespective of the iron mines?—It is aggravated by that.

2863. And, therefore, you think it not fair to extend the principle of rating now adopted with regard to coal mines to iron mines?—I do; I think that iron mines ought not to be rated the same as coals are now, nor do I think that the present rate should be continued on coals.

2864. Mr. *Spooner*.] Do I gather from you that there are many other descriptions of property that ought to be brought into the rate that are not at present rated?—That is a general question; I think there ought to be no exceptions.

2865. Do you think that a person possessing a large amount of money in the funds, and living in a parish where it is essential that the poor should be supported, and the police rate and the highway rate properly paid, should contribute something towards those parochial expenses, though his whole income is in the funds?—We generally find that they do spend money while they are in the parish.

2866. They now enjoy a great benefit from the poor being well maintained, and from the roads and the police being well kept up, towards the expense of which they contribute little or nothing?—Only on their house property.

2867. Do you not think that they ought to be made to contribute to the general parochial expenses incurred in the places in which they reside?—That is a subject which I have not studied.

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2868. Is not that the same principle on which you contend that the coal mines should be rated?—It is a subject rather too abstruse for me.

2869. But you object, I understand, to the way in which the coal mine is rated, because you actually rate them upon that part of the property which is the destruction of capital, and not merely income derived from the employment of that capital?—Yes, I think so; I think there might be a difference made.

2870. Upon that principle?—I do, and likewise in ironstone; but, as I said before, it is an aggravation of it that one half of a district shall pay too much and the other half nothing.

2871. But, subject to that sort of principle of rating, you think the iron ought to be rated as well as the coal?—Yes.

2872. *Chairman.*] As I understand you, you object to the coal being rated as it is now?—I do.

2873. You think that, instead of paying five-sixths of the royalty, one-half, at least, should be taken off?—Yes, because there is nothing that pays at the same rate for the money they turn over.

2874. But, if coal remains to be assessed as it is at present, do you see any reason why ironstone should not be assessed in the same ratio?—I think it would be extending a wrong.

2875. Would the wrong be greater, do you think, to the iron proprietor than it is to the coal proprietor?—No; but if there is a change in the law, it would not be well, in my opinion, to extend a wrong.

2876. You spoke just now of an iron proprietor in one field having a good mine, and paying nothing to the poor's-rates, and a coal proprietor paying for his coal in another field. If you were to assess the iron proprietor, who is now making a good thing of it, should you be doing him a greater grievance than you are now doing to the coal proprietor?—No; but I think he would soon try to get an alteration in the law.

2877. I may agree with you that the coal is highly rated; but if the coal remains as it is now, it would not be a greater grievance to the ironmaster to rate him than it is to rate the coal proprietor, would it?—No; it would be the same thing; but by not rating the ironstone you aggravate the wrong.

2878. Mr. *Spooner.*] But you would not extend the principle of that wrong by making it apply to the iron trade?—I would not; I would alter both.

2879. *Chairman.*] Taking the district you spoke of just now, the larger proportion of ironstone is raised from mines which have both coal and iron; but there are a great number of mines, are there not, which turn out only ironstone, and which are not rated?—Yes; half of the collieries do not get ironstone at all; I mean in this particular district.

2880. As far as that district goes, are not those who are raising iron alone, making as much profit as those who are raising coal?—Undoubtedly, more.

2881. The parties then who have the best trade, pay nothing to the poor?—It is so.

2882. In the district you speak of, as far as your observation has gone, the parties making the most interest on their outlay, are the parties who do not contribute to the maintenance of the poor?—Undoubtedly.

2883. Something was said just now with regard to the plant; the plant, I presume, is simply valuable where the ironstone is converted into metal?—Yes.

2884. The plant is small, I suppose, where it is only used for raising?—Yes.

2885. There are many districts, are there not, in which you are raising ironstone, which is shipped and sent off, or conveyed by railroad to other places for conversion into metal, where the highway-rate is high, and the poor-rate heavy, in consequence of the accidents arising in the mines, and yet mines pay almost nothing to the poor-rate, inasmuch as the plant on which only they are charged, is of small value?—That is the case.

2886. Mr. *Child.*] I understand you to say, that it is your opinion that the coal mines pay about twice as much as they ought to pay?—Mine is a rough calculation, but I think if they paid on one-half instead of five-sixths, it would be fair.

2887. That is as between them and the other ratepayers?—Yes.

2888. Would it be acting justly as between other ratepayers and the ironstone getters, that they should pay twice as much as they ought in proportion to all the rest of the ratepayers in the parish?—No; I said I would not extend the wrong; but

but would put it on a right principle, and if I assessed mines I should assess them on what was a just principle.

2889. Then you are not in favour of an extension of the present system?—No.

2890. You admit the present system to be an unjust one?—I do.

2891. Are you in favour or not in favour of extending a system which you say is unjust?—I think you are aggravating a wrong by excluding ironstone.

2892. I understand you to say that the present mode of assessing coal mines is an unjust one?—I do.

2893. Then are you in favour or are you not in favour of extending that system, which you avow to be unjust. Yes or no?—I do not think my yes or no would be an answer to the question.

2894. Is the present mode of assessing coal mines just or unjust?—It is unjust.

2895. Are you in favour of extending a system which you assert to be unjust to a larger area?—Not at the same rate; but I would assess it at some rate.

2896. Is the present system just or unjust?—I have stated that I consider it unjust.

2897. Would you extend that system which you say is unjust?—Not the same system; but I would certainly rate ironstone.

2898. Mr. *Spooner.*] You have stated that there have been a certain number of inquests; do you know that they were all paupers, or that the consequences of those inquests fell upon the parish?—I do not; but out of the 120 inquests, I found that 64 had applied to the parish; and that those 64 were made up to 154 by other mining cases, not where there were deaths; they were cases in which accidents had occurred and death had not ensued.

2899. Were all those cases of paupers?—Yes.

2900. Had the parish to pay for them?—They had, in all those cases.

2901. *Chairman.*] As I understand the thing, it is this; that you hold that coal mines are unfairly taxed at this moment?—I do.

2902. And you would be very sorry to see iron mines taxed in the same manner?—Yes.

2903. At the same time, if coal mines remain taxed as they are now, it would not be a greater grievance to the iron mines to be taxed as the coal mines are taxed?—That is my opinion.

2904. Mr. *Child.*] That is a question as between the coalmaster and the iron-getter; but it is a question which ought to be borne in mind between the iron-masters and the ratepayers generally, is it not?—Yes; the ratepayers generally are affected by the stone not being rated.

2905. Would it be fair between the ratepayers in general and the getters of ironstone, that because a coalminer pays twice as much as he ought to pay, an injustice should be done to the ratepayers in general, and tha tthe ironmasters should be exempt?—Because there is an injustice done to the coal-getter, that does not apply to the general ratepayer.

2906. The coalminer pays twice as much in proportion as the other rate-payers, does he not?—Yes; take a manufactory and take a colliery. I consider that the colliery proprietor pays twice as much as the manufacturer.

2907. But because the coalminer pays too much, would you also say the iron-stone-getter should pay too much also?—No; if there is any Bill passed, I say put it at one-half or two-thirds; I think it very wrong that they should not pay at all. Whatever the amount may be, is for you to decide. My opinion goes only thus far, that he would have no right to complain if he was taxed on one-half of his royalty.

Martis, 30° *die Junii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Spooner.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Colvile.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Michael Williams.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

John Lewis Ricardo, Esq., a Member of the House; Examined.

J. L. Ricardo, Esq., M. P.

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2908. *Chairman.*] YOU are anxious, I understand, that the Committee should hear some evidence from the district which you represent with reference to this question, in addition to the evidence to be given by the witnesses who have been summoned?—Yes; I was anxious to ask the Committee to examine several of my constituents, who are much interested in the subject now under investigation by this Committee, and I believe that you, sir, thought that the most regular way for me to make the application would be by my being examined very shortly. The district is rather a remarkable one, containing within it several towns, all of which exhibit (if I may so express myself) different phases with reference to the rating or non-rating of minerals; it is therefore very difficult for parties coming from one district to explain the peculiarities relating to another district. There are several gentlemen now present who are anxious to be examined before this Committee upon a point which so much interests them. Their evidence would, I think, be very short, and if the Committee would be good enough to examine them, or some of them, in addition to those other gentlemen who have already been summoned, I think it would be very desirable with a view to the elucidation of truth. The matter itself, as I am sure the Committee must perceive, has assumed larger dimensions than was at first anticipated. The question is one of very great importance, involving enormous sums of money, and enormous interests. I do not think that the case of my constituents can be fairly laid before you unless you examine more than the three gentlemen who have been summoned.

2909. You do not think that the evidence of those three gentlemen would be sufficient to represent all the interests concerned in your district?—Very far from it; on the contrary, I think that the other interests in the district would not like them to speak for them.

2910. The different districts are differently affected?—Yes.

2911. Are they new mining districts, or are they of some standing?—Both; but I would rather not go into any actual evidence myself upon the subject.

2912. You merely wish to state your conviction that the three gentlemen who have been summoned would not give sufficient evidence to embrace the views of other parties?—Certainly; I think that without hearing further evidence you would have a very narrow view of the whole case.

2913. The inquiry is opening up a question which has an important bearing on very large properties?—Very large indeed; this is a district containing 120,000 inhabitants, and the minerals are mixed up in it in a most extraordinary way. I do not think there is any district in the United Kingdom which would show the action of the whole thing better.

2914. Colonel *Pennant.*] Do the same species of minerals exist throughout the district?—They consist of coal and ironstone generally; but I would rather not go into particulars.

2915. *Chairman.*] You are aware that objections have been made to the number of witnesses we have been calling. I certainly, for my own part, feel that we are opening up a very large question, involving millions instead of hundreds of thousands, and I think it would be false economy not to have any witnesses who by their evidence may be able to give us fresh information. Of course your opinion is of value, and I understand you to say, you think we should not do justice to the subject if we were to confine our examination within

within the limits to which it has been proposed that it should be confined?—Yes.

2916. What parties would you suggest it to be desirable for us to examine, limiting the examination of witnesses as much as is consistent with the greatness and importance of the subject?—I would suggest that you should examine Mr. Wedgewood, the chief bailiff of Tunstall, Mr. Lowndes, of Wolstanton, Mr. Hale, and Mr. M'Intyre, the chief bailiff of Burslem. I do not think that their evidence would detain you long.

2917. Do you think that you could dispense with the evidence of either of those gentlemen?—I think not.

2918. If you could dispense with either of them, which would you name?—That would be rather an invidious point to decide; I do not think you could dispense with any of them. I do not think it would be just to go into the Pottery case at all, unless you heard it out completely.

2919. To complete that part of the case, you think it would be necessary to examine those four gentlemen?—Yes; I think it is quite necessary; they are all now in the room.

Mr. *Thomas Weston*, called in; and Examined.

2920. YOU are Clerk to the Guardians of the Cheadle Union?—I am.

2921. How many parishes are comprised in that union?—There are 15 parishes comprised in the union.

2922. What is the area of those 15 parishes?—About 56,000 acres.

2923. There have been some new ironstone mines discovered in your union recently, have there not?—There were ironstone mines discovered about the year 1853; they were suspected to exist previously, but there was no search made till that time.

2924. When did they begin to work?—About a year after they were discovered; about three years since.

2925. Through what district are these ironstone mines worked?—Ironstone has been discovered in the parishes of Cheddleton, Consall, Ipstones, Kingsley, Cheadle, and Checkley; they are ascertained to extend over not less than 11,000 or 12,000 acres of land in those parishes; and it is considered by practical men to be much more extensive.

2926. Do you think it likely that it will be still further developed?—I think it likely that it will be still further developed; they are to a considerable distance under the Weaver Hills; and ironstone has been discovered on the opposite side of those hills. Mineralogists consider it exceedingly probable that the mine will run completely under the hills.

2927. Do you know anything about the average thickness of these mines?—They vary from one foot to two feet four inches.

2928. Do you know what is the average of royalty paid?—The mines that have been let on royalty within the last two years have varied from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton. Previous to that, when it was first discovered, there were a few instances where a less royalty was obtained, but those instances were considered as cases in which the property was let considerably under its real value.

2929. Do you know whether these mines are let on minimum rents?—There is one instance within my knowledge, of a mine in the parish in which I reside, a small property containing 30 acres; it has been let to Messrs. Tunley at a royalty of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per ton, with a minimum rent of 200 *l.* a year.

2930. How many firms or companies are there working these ironstone mines now, do you know?—Binns & Company are the most extensive workers on the northern side of the Churnet; and Bowers is considerably the most extensive on the southern side.

2931. How many are there altogether, do you know?—Not more than six or seven.

2932. Are any of those parties working coal with the ironstone?—They are not; there is coal in the district, but it is of very inferior quality.

2933. Is not Mr. Bowers working coal, though not with this mine, yet under the same land there?—He is an extensive renter of coal mines, both in the Cheadle Union and in the Potteries; but he is not working any collieries in connexion with the iron mines.

2934. Is he not working coals in the parish of Kingsley, under the same landlord?—

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landlord?—Under the same landlord, in the parish of Kingsley, about two miles from where he has opened for iron mines.

2935. What is the quantity of ironstone raised in a week on an average?—From 2,500 to 3,000 tons.

2936. In the aggregate?—In the aggregate.

2937. I believe these mines are worked in various ways, some by drifts into the hill, and some by shafts?—Generally by drifts. Mr. Bowers works entirely by drifts; he draws out the ore on a tramway, and delivers it into the boats without any additional expense or additional machinery.

2938. These beds of stone are very variable, are they not?—They vary very much in thickness; they are much richer on the south or Kingsley side than they are on the extreme northern side.

2939. The levels that are now worked are of no great length, are they?—They are not more than half a mile, I think, and in some instances they are less than that.

2940. Do you think it would be half a mile on an average?—It would be less than half a mile on an average; but the time is not distant when it would scarcely be an average.

2941. Are these mines troubled much with water?—Very little. Mr. Bowers has a small engine for the purpose of getting it out; but on his side the collieries which belong to the Duke of Devonshire have been drained by the drift channel, and consequently there is very little water in the mines.

2942. Has the Duke of Devonshire some mining property there?—Yes.

2943. Whereabouts is it situated?—It is near to that part of Kingsley that is called the Hazels.

2944. Has he an estate there, or has he only manorial rights?—I believe he has only manorial rights; he has no freehold property in the parish at the present time.

2945. Do you know whether the expense of getting the mine is large or not, in proportion to the selling price?—The expense of getting and conveying the ironstone to the commencement of the tramway is 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton, and the cost of conveying it from the entrance of the tramway to the boat is 1 *s.* per ton, and they pay for post wood, and for other wood used in the mines, a sum that would be covered by rather less than 1 *s.* a ton.

2946. Making it about 5 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton?—The preliminary expenses, the establishment and office charges, would be well covered by 1 *s.* a ton, the royalty of Mr. Bowers is 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton, making altogether 8 *s.* a ton; and the price that he obtains varies from 13 *s.* to 15 *s.* a ton, or an average of 14 *s.*, showing a profit of 6 *s.* a ton.

2947. Has there been a large importation of population to work those mines?—The addition to the population is about 450 in the parishes of Ipstones and Kingsley; that is exclusive of a considerable number of workmen who reside within the union.

2948. Natives?—Natives.

2949. Has not the opening of these mines had a tendency to raise the wages in that district?—We have not perceived among the agriculturists any addition at present to the wages; the wages in our district have always been fair.

2950. What are the average wages of the agricultural class of labourers?—Farm labourers generally have their food; a good farm labourer will during the winter months obtain 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* a week and his maintenance, and in the summer he will get 9 *s.* or 10 *s.*

2951. What do those get who do not live in farmhouses?—From 12 *s.* to 14 *s.* a week. I do not know any man with any pretensions to be called a labourer who earns less than 12 *s.* a week.

2952. Have you found any increase in the poor-rates since the opening of these mines?—We have not had a very perceptible increase in the poor-rates; probably that may have been in consequence of the short time the mines have been in operation; but we have had a number of cases of sickness and accident with men who have no settlement in the union, but whom the union is compelled to maintain, they not being removable; but as their maintenance is scattered through all the parishes in the union, an individual parish will not at present feel so much the pressure of it; I have no doubt, however, that that expense will continue to argument.

2953. Prospectively?—Prospectively. We find in reference to the parishes where

where the coal mines constitute a considerable proportion of the labour of the people, that the poor-rates in those parishes are the highest of any in the union. There is one parish where the out-relief is more than that of the principal parish in the union, and the population is only about one-third of the population of that parish; in the last year, concluding at Lady-day, the expenditure amounted to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* a head on the population in that parish.

2954. *Chairman.*] What parish is that?—The parish of Dilhorn.

2955. Colonel *Pennant.*] What is the amount of the population there?—Rather more than 1,600.

2956. Mr. *Child.*] Has there been any increase upon the highway-rates in consequence of the opening of these mines?—In consequence of the ironstone being delivered at the canal, there would be very little increase in the highway-rate.

2957. It is taken down by tramway?—Yes; it is taken down by tramway and delivered at once into the boat.

2958. Coal mines are rated in your district, are they not?—Invariably.

2959. On what principle?—On the acreage.

2960. How do you assess them?—I have a mine in my eye where the coal is one yard in thickness, and the rent is 100 *l.* per acre; the quantity obtained per acre will give you 4½ *d.* per ton on the mine rent; the getting of the coals, and raising them to the surface, is done for 3 *s.* a ton, the post wood costs 2 *d.*, and all the preliminary and establishment charges cost rather less than 1 *s.*, giving as the cost of raising the coals 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton; two-thirds of that coal is sold for 9 *s.* 2 *d.* a ton, one-sixth is sold for 5 *s.*, and one-sixth for 4 *s.* 2 *d.* Taking the average, it will give you as the price obtained for a ton of coals 7 *s.* 7 *d.*, showing a profit of 3 *s.* 1 *d.*, the profit on the ironstone being double of that.

2961. What parish is this mine you speak of in?—The mine I allude to is in the parish of Cheadle.

2962. You have large lime quarries, have you not, in the union?—We have very extensive limestone quarries, the produce of which is conveyed by a tramway to the boats, and then it is shipped off to be used in South Staffordshire, for the purpose of calcining iron; those quarries and tramway are rated to the poor in the different parishes through which they pass, to an extent of more than 3,000 *l.* a year.

2963. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by parishes through which they pass? Do you mean the parishes in which they are worked?—The limestone is in the parishes of Caldon and Cotton, where it is rated.

2964. Mr. *Child.*] The quarry is rated in two parishes?—Yes, Caldon and Cotton; the boundary of the parish runs through the quarry.

2965. Those quarries are worked entirely by the North Staffordshire Company, are they not?—They are.

2966. How much do you say those quarries are rated at?—The rate in the parish of Caldon is 825 *l.* a year.

2967. Do you know how much that would be per ton?—I do not; the rate in Cotton is rather less than 100 *l.*, making together rather less than 1,000 *l.* a year.

2968. You have no means of ascertaining how much per ton that might be on the limestone; do you know the quantity of limestone that is raised?—I believe the quantity raised considerably exceeds 300,000 tons a year. I have no doubt there are witnesses in the room who can give you an exact detail of the quantity.

2969. Do you know what mine rent is paid for the limestone?—I know the cost of getting the limestone and all expenses and the transit down to the boat amounts to about 10 *d.* a ton.

2970. Do these quarries all belong to one proprietor?—They belong to four or five different proprietors; to the devisees of the late Mr. Hart, of Uttoxeter, Mr. Gilbert, of Cotton, and there are one or two other joint owners of the quarries, but in different proportions.

2971. Do many accidents occur in the process of working those quarries?—Yes, there are many accidents.

2972. Of what nature are those accidents?—Frequently the accidents occur from blasting; sometimes from the stone falling upon the parties, and sometimes from the parties slipping down the edge of the quarry.

2973. Have there been many accidents in the ironstone workings at present?—I cannot speak to the number of accidents that really have happened; but there have

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have been not less than ten or twelve applications for relief, in consequence of accidents.

2974. Are there many accidents in your coal mines in the union?—I think there are a greater proportion of accidents in the ironstone mines than there are in the coal mines; in the Cheadle district, the accidents in the coal mines are less frequent than they are in any other district.

2975. Is that in proportion to the population employed?—Yes, that is in proportion to the population employed.

2976. There is a rate levied, I suppose, on the engines and plant of these ironstone mines?—Nothing whatever.

2977. Not upon the railways or engines?—No; we consider, as the law stands, that a tramway would be considered an appurtenance to the mine, and therefore that it would not be rateable.

2978. Then you do not assess them at all?—They do not in any form or shape pay a single farthing.

2979. Do the engines and plant of the coalworks pay anything?—They are rated very heavily.

2980. In addition to the coal mines?—In addition to the coal mines.

2981. Does the railway or anything appurtenant to the lime quarry pay anything?—The railway pays a very heavy rate; the difference between a sum of rather under 1,000 *l.* and the sum of upwards of 3,000 *l.* constitutes the amount at which the railway is rated; the railway is rated for more than 2,000 *l.* a year.

2982. The railway from Caldon road to the junction?—Yes.

2983. Are there large lime-pits for burning the lime at Froghall?—Yes, both at Froghall and Caldon.

2984. Are they rated?—Yes, they are.

2985. In what way?—I cannot ascertain the mode upon which they are rated; doubtless the principle is to rate them at what they are worth to rent, and the rental is the criterion at which the valuer estimates the amount at which they ought to be rated. I think I speak correctly, although I speak from memory, when I say that a lime-kiln at Froghall will be rated at 40 *l.* a year. There are several lime-kilns in our parish; I have frequently seen the rate, and that, I think, is the exact sum.

2986. Have you any analysis of the rates of your union at all—what the different interests pay; for instance, what a coal mine would pay, and what land would pay?—I have not.

2987. You could not give an opinion, off-hand, about it?—I could not. I believe the Delphouse colliery is rated at something less than 300 *l.* a year. I have frequently seen the rates in the discharge of my duties; but I have not drawn out an abstract of the gross amount.

2988. You have various manufactories in your union, have you not?—We have silk manufactories and tape manufactories.

2989. Are they rated upon the erections?—They are rated upon the buildings and upon the power.

2990. The steam power?—The steam power.

2991. Separately?—Yes.

2992. Then I suppose the same principle applies to the engines of the coal works. Do you rate them according to the power?—Yes.

2993. At how much per horse power do you rate them?—That I cannot speak to; but I believe that it is about 2 *l.* per horse power.

2994. What rate do you lay upon the manufactories?—I think the rate is about equal to that which is laid upon the collieries.

2995. I am speaking about the buildings?—We have a tape manufactory in the village in which I reside, and the amount at which that factory and the steam power is rated is about 800 *l.* a year.

2996. How many hands would be employed in that manufactory, do you know at all?—Probably 400.

2997. They are rated at about 800 *l.* a year?—Yes.

2998. What is the largest amount at which any colliery in your district is rated?—I cannot speak to that exactly; I should conceive that Woodhead Colliery would be rated higher than any other.

2999. How much is that, do you know?—I cannot speak to it; I have no recollection of it.

3000. Do

3000. Do you know what any colliery may be rated at in the union?—I have not examined closely the amount at which any colliery is rated. I have a recollection, from having gone through the Cheadle books frequently, with reference to the amount of the Delphouse; but I would not speak to any other.

3001. Do you know what would be the amount for the Delphouse?—About 300 *l.* a year.

3002. How many hands are employed there, do you know?—I cannot say.

3003. *Chairman.*] If I understand you, yours is a very large mineral district, which is opening up at present?—There is a very large mineral district opening up.

3004. Of all the descriptions of minerals which have now been discovered, which do you think is returning, with the smallest outlay, the largest interest to the capitalist, the coal, the ironstone, the lime, or what?—I think, looking not simply at our district, but at the district of Staffordshire generally, I should prefer embarking in the ironstone trade, because generally speaking you work your iron mines with the same machinery, and you have the same shaft with which you have previously been working your coal mines. It is not requisite that you should have any additional engine power for drawing out the water; that has been done for you, and there is no expense in searching for the ironstone mine; that has been previously discovered.

3005. Then, if I understand you rightly, taking all the descriptions of property now opening up, you think the best investment is in ironstone?—I should most decidedly prefer engaging in the ironstone trade, even with the addition of four or five times the amount that will be charged for poor-rates.

3006. If that be the case, that is likely, I suppose, to be found out, and you are likely to have a considerable increase in the search after ironstone?—I have not a shadow of a doubt about that.

3007. And that will bring an increase of the population?—Yes.

3008. And an increase of the number of poor?—Yes.

3009. Then of all descriptions of property, this is the only one that does not contribute to the poor-rates?—It is the only description of property in our union that does not contribute to the poor-rates.

3010. Of all descriptions of property, is there any other so likely to create poor as the ironstone mine?—Decidedly not. I beg to correct a previous answer I have given; there is one description of property which does not contribute to the poor-rates, but that applies generally; I mean woods.

3011. Take the union of Cheadle; I understand that there the profit upon the ironstone is nearly double what it is upon the coal?—It is.

3012. What makes an iron mine a more dangerous mine to work in than a coal mine?—Perhaps it may be occasioned by the parties being inexperienced; whatever may be the cause, the fact is, that we have a greater number of applications for relief in consequence of accidents in ironstone mines than we have from the collieries.

3013. Do the iron proprietors, or speculators, or lessees, provide in any way for a poor miner when he becomes exhausted or incapacitated from work by accident?—I believe there are one or two cases in which the men themselves subscribe something in case of an accident occurring, but I am not aware of any fund that is raised by the proprietors.

3014. Then the moment they become injured, unless they have some little savings of their own to fall back upon, they become chargeable upon the poor-rates?—Yes, immediately.

3015. But, as I understand you, they do not come upon the immediate parish, but upon the establishment charge?—Those who have no settlement in the parish come upon the establishment charge.

3016. As far as your experience goes, taking an average of 10 accidents, how many go upon the parish and how many go upon the establishment charge?—In the ironstone mines I should say that more than the majority go upon the establishment charge.

3017. Taking your union as a union of 15 parishes, out of those 15, how many should you say were mineral districts?—You mean coal also?

3018. Yes.—There would be eight mineral districts.

3019. And seven agricultural districts?—Yes.

3020. Nearly half your union, then, having nothing at all to do with these ironstone mines, pay for the accidents that occur in them?—They do, and to a much

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much greater extent than that, because in the parishes where we have mineral wealth there is considerably more than one-half of the land without mines: in those parishes that I have given you as containing mines there is much more than one-half of the land in which there are no mines found.

3021. You have nearly half your union disconnected with mines, have you not?—Yes.

3022. And they have to maintain half the miners who meet with accidents in the ironstone mines?—Yes.

3023. Taking those which are mineral districts, what is the ratio contributed to the poor-rate by the agricultural part of the parish and by the mineral part of the parish; how are they rated to the poor. Take the coal; take the parishes in which you have minerals; what is the relative proportion of the mineral value and the land or surface value?—In the parish of Checkley there are 400 acres under which there is ironstone, and there are 6,000 acres without any minerals.

3024. Has the rental of the land in the immediate neighbourhood of the mines much increased since the discovery of these minerals?—Not a fraction, not a farthing.

3025. Then they are not dependent at all for the sale of their produce on the parties who work these mines?—They are not.

3026. They can get their sale elsewhere?—They can get as much money for their articles in the neighbouring markets.

3027. Is there any complaint at all on the part of the agriculturists, that without being benefited directly or indirectly by mines, as you say they are not, they are obliged to contribute towards the maintenance of the poor who receive injuries in working those iron mines?—I have heard of no great complaint from persons disconnected with the management of the union; and from the fact of a great portion of the charge running over the whole union, they would individually scarcely feel it.

3028. As yet the mines are new; the men are fresh and not yet worked out?—Yes.

3029. The men are not become aged yet in the work?—No.

3030. Is coal rated up to its royalty pretty nearly; suppose a coal mine pays a rate of 1*s.* a ton, is it rated at 1*s.* a ton to the poor's-rate or not?—I believe it is, with the customary deductions.

3031. Is the same deduction made for the coal as is made in the case of the rental?—Yes.

3032. You said just now that there were some coals rated by the acreage?—They pay royalty by the acreage.

3033. If they pay a royalty, say of 100*l.* an acre, which amounts to 4½*d.* a ton, how are they rated?—I suppose the valuer will get the best information he can, and very generally he has access to the books, which very materially simplifies the question, and he estimates the amount at which he ought to rate by the quantity which has been produced, the royalty paid being regulated by that circumstance.

3034. Suppose he finds that a certain grantor has let four acres at 400*l.* a year; how would you manage about him?—If the grantor had four acres of coal to let, at 100*l.* an acre, and that coal was got in four years, doubtless the rate would be on 100*l.* a year; and if he estimates that it would take a much longer period to get it, there must be a proportionate reduction in the amount of the rate; the only difficulty in rating mines is to ascertain the amount you get in one year.

3035. If you were to rate it at 100*l.* an acre, and according to the thickness of the seam, that would be at 4½*d.* a ton; if he only raised half that acre he would only be rated at half that amount?—The sooner the mine is exhausted the sooner, of course, he ceases to pay rates.

3036. But the 4½*d.* per ton is the basis of the rating?—That would be the basis of the calculation upon which the rate is made.

3037. Then the royalty is, in fact, the basis of the rating?—Decidedly.

3038. Your canal is rated, is it not?—It is.

3039. Is the canal of great service to the ironstone and to the coal?—They convey the whole of the ironstone by the canal.

3040. If there was no canal the value of the ironstone, I suppose, would be considerably lessened?—It would be scarcely worth getting, owing to the want of a mode of conveyance.

3041. Then that which aids them in the getting of profit is rated?—That which aids them in obtaining the profit is rated.

3042. Those

3042. Those who make the large profits go free?—Yes.

3043. Do you think that that is fair to the other ratepayers?—I should say decidedly not.

3044. Is there any reason why the mine should not be rated; is there anything from its mode of working, or is there any reason whatever why, while coal and limestone are rated, that ironstone should go free?—I have often been surprised that the inconsistency and anomaly should so long have existed. I think that, of all properties, ironstone ought to be the first to be rated.

3045. And you conceive it to be a great anomaly that it is not?—It is a great anomaly.

3046. In coal mines the tramways are rated, are they not?—Yes, because the mine is rated, and everything connected with the raising of coal, it has been decided, must be rated also.

3047. Is the tramway rated because the coal is rated?—That is the practice.

3048. But because the iron mine is free, the tramway is free?—Yes, and everything that is necessary to raise ore to the surface must be free also.

3049. Has that never been tried at all before the quarter sessions?—It has been tried by the Court of Queen's Bench, but I cannot give you the name of the case.

3050. Have they drawn a distinction between a tramway in the case of an iron mine and a tramway in the case of a coal mine, that whereas in the case of the iron mine it is part of the working, and therefore free, and that in the case of the coal mine it is not?—It is considered that, because the coal is rateable, therefore all the apparatus must be rateable.

3051. Colonel *Pennant*.] To what distance does this tramway extend; the tramroad leads from the coal mine, I understand you to say?—I understood the Chairman to put the case hypothetically.

3052. *Chairman*.] As I understand, the tramway is connected with your limestone; how far does the tramway go?—About four or five miles.

3053. That is not touched at all?—That is rated because the limestone is rated.

3054. You were speaking, just now, of a tramway from the iron mine which was not rated?—Yes.

3055. And of a tramway from the coal mine which was rated; is the tramway used for the iron mine in the same way as the tramway is used for the coal mine?—I understood you to put the case as a supposition: suppose a tramway was used in the case of a coal mine, would it be rated. We have no tramways by which coal is drawn to the surface; we have a tramway by which the ironstone is conveyed to the surface.

3056. When it is conveyed to the surface by a tramway, is it continued on from thence to any other place of deposit?—It is taken direct from the tramway to the boat.

3057. The canal is close by the iron mine, then?—The canal is within 100 yards of where they enter into their drift-way.

3058. Then you have no tramway of any length after the mine comes from what you may call the mouth of the adit, or whatever it may be?—We have not.

3059. Colonel *Pennant*.] Have you any coal and ironworks where the coal and ironstone are brought up by the same shaft?—We have not any instance of that.

3060. Do you smelt your ironstone on the spot?—No; it is delivered as it is got out of the mine, without washing or anything, direct to the boat, and then taken to South Staffordshire.

3061. Mr. *Foster*.] In the district of which you have been speaking, the ironstone is a mineral peculiar, I presume, to that district, and unassociated with coal, and it is taken away and not consumed on the spot?—There is inferior coal in that district.

3062. I am speaking of the new district?—Yes; there is nothing but inferior coal.

3063. Is it worked?—It is worked in the parish of Ipstones, but it comes up pretty nearly in the form of slack; it is used for some purposes, but not to a great extent.

3064. The great bulk of the mineral that is raised to the surface and exported is the ironstone of which you have been speaking, is it not?—It is the ironstone.

3065. A considerable quantity of that mine is now set or leased to different firms, I understand?—Considerable portions of the district are set, but the great

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bulk remain unset; there is not a fourth of the district containing ironstone at present set.

3066. But all that is immediately accessible for opening, I suppose, has been taken?—Oh dear, no; there are a great many properties as to which the parties are in negotiation, but the owners of land are advancing in price, and there are many circumstances that prevent agreements being completed.

3067. But a considerable quantity is already set, is it not?—Yes, a considerable quantity is already being got.

3068. And agreed for?—Yes.

3069. And of course all that has been taken with the understanding that such mineral was not liable to poor-rates?—Of course: every man who works an ironstone mine knows that at present they are not liable to poor-rates.

3070. They have been taken on that understanding?—Yes; so would a gentleman who bought an estate seven years since know that there was no property tax upon it; but of course Parliament can inflict any burthen which in fairness they think the property ought to bear.

3071. With respect to the 100*l.* which you have stated might be taken as a supposition for the value of the mineral, in lieu of a royalty per ton; in some cases it is a given sum per acre, is it not?—Yes, it is.

3072. It is, in fact, a sale of the mineral in the ground for that sum?—There is no doubt of that; it is tantamount to a sale.

3073. Therefore in rating that sum you would be, in fact, rating the purchase-money paid for part of the actual corpus of the estate?—I should be rating that which was under the surface of the estate; but I should leave the value of the estate just what it would be if there had been no mines ever found in it.

3074. That is, after a gentleman has exhausted a fine mineral property, you would leave it in the same state as it was before, as I understand you?—If there is any injury done to the surface in getting the mine, or found to have been done on ceasing to work the mine, the party may come and claim a reduction of the rate.

3075. Do you leave the value of the property, as a property, the same after the mines have been exhausted and carried away as before?—It is usual in leases for getting coal mines to insert a clause requiring all the old pits to be filled up.

3076. The mineral having been set we will say at 300 *l.* per acre, and that mineral having been gotten and removed, the value of the estate then becomes very different, does it not, from what it was when it had the minerals in the ground?—Doubtless it does.

3077. Therefore if you rate that mineral, you are, in point of fact, rating part of the fee of the estate?—I am rating a portion of the estate; but it is a portion, the produce of which the landlord is putting into his own pocket; it increases the value of his estate by the amount of the royalty he receives.

3078. But it is not a reproducible value?—He may invest it, and then it will produce something annually; but while it is in the mine it is of course unproductive to any one.

3079. But the produce of mines in the ground, and the produce of land in the shape of crops growing on the surface, are very different things, are they not?—Doubtless.

3080. And therefore the same principle of rating ought not to be applied to both cases; assuming the legality of rating this description of mineral property, you would not apply the same principle of rating to the case of minerals that you would apply to the case of land?—I would apply decidedly the same principle; and that principle should be this: what is the property worth to rent, with all its advantages and disadvantages?

3081. Whether it is a property likely to endure for centuries, or which in the course of a few years would be exhausted, carried away, and done with?—If it would endure only for 100 years, I would rate it for 100 years; if it would endure for 1,000 years, I would rate it for 1,000 years; when the property ceases to be productive the rate must terminate.

3082. *Chairman.*] In your neighbourhood, about ten years ago, this was an unexpected property, was it not?—Quite so.

3083. The fact is, that a man has found, as it were, a new farm under ground?—Yes.

3084. A new property?—Yes.

3085. And unexpected?—Yes.

3086. Therefore

3086. Therefore you hold, that of all properties that ought to be rated, it is that property which a man finds suddenly; that is your view of it?—Yes. I would give you an instance: About seven years ago there was a little estate in the parish of Ipstone offered for sale by public auction; 3,500*l.* were bid for it, the reserved bidding being 4,000*l.* Since the ironstone has been discovered that little property has been sold by private contract for 15,000*l.*, thus giving the owner an unexpected godsend.

3087. And still that property, if I understand, goes on as its old rating?—It is unrated.

3088. Mr. *Foster.*] But the person who purchased the property for 15,000*l.*, having purchased it with the understanding that the mineral was not to be rated, you would inflict a tax upon that individual in respect of that property, for which tax he was totally unprepared?—I am not aware that the purchaser did understand that it would not be rated; he was aware, no doubt, that at that time it was not rateable.

3089. I presume you would state that there is something in the wearing out of a mineral property very different from the annual wearing out of a house or a farm or other property, which, under proper management, and with due repairs, is capable of lasting, in the ordinary course of things, for a considerable term of years?—No doubt.

3090. In fact, it is very different from canal property, which bears a sort of permanent annual value, and with proper repairs from time to time may last an infinite number of years, whereas a mine once gotten is gone for ever?—Yes. But in the instance of the little property which I named, which is now let for 26*l.* a year, while the mine is let at a minimum rent of 200*l.* a year, you are putting such an immense sum into the hands of the landowner, that by the time that ironstone is got, and the mineral property is exhausted, he would be in a position to purchase an estate four or five times the value.

3091. *Chairman.*] In the case to which you have referred as to the purchase of a property for 15,000*l.*, it was an ironstone property, was it not, at the time when the purchase was made?—It was.

3092. There were leases, were there not?—No; they purchased the freehold; the fee simple.

3093. At the time they purchased it, was there a grant to any parties to work the minerals, or not?—No; they purchased the land with the mines underneath.

3094. Has there been a grant since?—No, I believe not.

3095. Colonel *Pennant.*] You were asked whether, supposing ironstone mines were rated, you would make any difference in the assessment on account of the corpus being in the process of consumption by the working of mines. Do you make any deduction or difference in that respect in regard to the limestone quarries or the coal pits which are already rated, as compared with the valuation of surface land?—The practice is to fix the rate on the amount that the property is worth to rent.

3096. Without, in the case of these coal mines or limestone quarries, making any difference as to deduction between their annual value and the annual value of the surface land, which is also rated?—We value precisely on the same principle as that on which valuations in the case of railways are made; we put such a rent upon them as a tenant would give, with all its advantages, if the proprietors were to let it.

3097. Making no deduction on account of the corpus of the estate being in the process of consumption?—None whatever.

George Baker, Esq., called in; and Examined.

3098. *Chairman.*] YOU are Chairman of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union?—I am.

3099. How long have you held that office?—Fourteen or fifteen years, I think; with one exception, from first to last, for about fourteen years.

3100. For how long has that been a mining district?—It has been a coal district from time immemorial.

3101. How long has it been an ironstone district?—It has been an ironstone district, I should say, for the last 20 years to my knowledge, perhaps more.

3102. Of what parishes does the union consist?—The parishes of Burslem and Wolstanton.

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3103. How many townships are there?—In the parish of Wolstanton there are 12 townships.

3104. Containing how many acres?—Ten thousand one hundred and seventy.

3105. Of how many townships does Burslem consist?—Four townships.

3106. What is the acreage?—Two thousand nine hundred and forty acres.

3107. Is the population increasing at all?—It is.

3108. What was the population in the year 1851?—The population of Burslem in the year 1851 was 19,024.

3109. And what was the population of Wolstanton?—Twenty-two thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

3110. Can you state what is the population at the present moment?—According to the rate-books, and estimating each house at an average of five in family, which I believe is within the mark, the population of Burslem has increased from 19,000 to 21,000, and the population of Wolstanton from 22,000 and odd to upwards of 26,000.

3111. Can you give us any information as to the number of paupers altogether?—We have of settled poor 3,110, of irremoveable 2,501. The amount of poor's-rate disbursed to the settled poor is 9,218*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, and the amount disbursed to the irremoveable is 5,993*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

3112. Then the irremoveable poor cost rather more than half as much as the other?—Yes, rather more than half.

3113. Are the irremoveable poor principally miners or not?—They consist principally of miners; not altogether ironstone miners, but some of them work in the coal mines, and others are labourers in the manufactories.

3114. In that district what is the relative proportion of the coal to the stone workings?—I should think that the men employed in the coal mines form about two-fifths of the mining population, and those in the ironstone mines three-fifths, inasmuch as we have three stone pits for one coal pit: then there are more men employed in a coal pit than there are in a stone pit.

3115. In your district coal pays to the poor-rate, does it not?—Yes.

3116. And ironstone does not?—No.

3117. Which of the two is the most profitable working, as far as your experience goes?—I should say the stone is the most profitable; I should say that the figures I have given as to the number of paupers, and as to the amount raised, extended over a period of two years; in the same period there were 754 applicants who were engaged in mining operations, to whom relief was given to the extent of 1,574*l.* 16*s.*

3118. Within two years you paid 1,574*l.* 16*s.* to the poor belonging exclusively to mining operations?—Yes.

3119. Can you give us the relative proportions of those miners who come from the ironstone workings and from the coal workings?—No, I cannot give you the precise numbers.

3120. Taking the number of pits of one and the other, what should you fancy would be about the average?—I should say about three-fifths from the stone and two-fifths from the coal.

3121. Do you think they are making a much larger profit upon the stone than they are upon the coal?—I should conceive that the stone is the most profitable description of mining that we have.

3122. Did you hear the evidence given by the last witness?—I did.

3123. Do you agree with him in thinking, that of all the mineral property in that district, the ironstone property is the most valuable, but that either from the nature of its working, or from want of skill on the part of the miners, it sends a greater number of poor to the union than any other description of mineral property; first of all, as far as your experience goes, does the ironstone property send more paupers to the union than any other description of mineral property?—Yes, in proportion.

3124. Is it the fact that it is the most valuable property, as far as profits go, that it sends more poor to the union than any other description of mineral property, and that it is the only description of mineral property that does not assist in the maintenance of the poor?—Yes.

3125. It is the only description of mineral property that does not contribute towards the poor-rate?—It is.

3126. Do you consider that that is fair or just, as regards the other owners of mineral property?—Certainly not; I think it is very unfair that the other parties should

should contribute something like 2,000 *l.* in two years towards the support of the stone-getters, while the owners of the ironstone mines do not contribute one farthing towards the rate.

3127. Is the other rateable property, independent of mining property, very much enhanced in value by, or is it in any way dependent on the mining property for its value?—No; the other property is in many instances depreciated in consequence of the mining operations.

3128. In what way is it depreciated?—From the very large surface of spoil that is deposited, and from the clay and stuff that is spread upon the surface before they get down to the stone; there are frequent applications made by farmers and others for deductions from their rates in consequence of this depreciation.

3129. What is the value of land per acre in your district?—I should say from 35 *s.* to 50 *s.* an acre; in some situations, contiguous to the town, it would be more.

3130. Do you think that if the mines were to stop there would be any considerable reduction in the value of the land in your district?—None whatever.

3131. Do you think that if the mines were to stop there would be any considerable increase in your poor-rate, or would the poor population, do you think, migrate?—I think that if the mines were to stop our poor-rates would be lessened.

3132. Do you think they would not leave their poor behind?—In some instances, no doubt they would do so; within the last two years 1,500 *l.* has been expended in relieving the poor connected with mining operations; and we have now 300, or nearly one-half, still on the books.

3133. Do these ironstone mines at all help you with regard to the poor; do they subscribe to clubs, or assist the miners in any way?—I am not aware that they have anything more than a field club among themselves; if a man is injured, he has something like 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* a week allowed him from the fund; but that is of a very temporary character.

3134. Supposing you find that a miner, either by reason of his own subscription to a certain club, or by reason of arrangements made by the lessees of the mine, is entitled to receive something in case of illness or accident, if he or his family apply for assistance to the union, do you make any calculation at all as to what he receives from his poor-box?—Yes.

3135. Do you calculate the whole of that as received, or do you make him an allowance for part of it, in consequence of the provision which he has made?—In consequence of that we take one head from his family. Supposing a man to have a wife and six children, we say to the man, "You are provided for;" we make an allowance to the wife and children, but we consider that the man is himself provided for by the field club.

3136. You consider that the man is provided for, but you take the whole responsibility of supporting his wife and family upon your own shoulders?—Yes.

3137. Do you find that very burthensome?—Yes; it is increasing upon us very much, and I have no doubt that it will continue to increase.

3138. As far as your present prospects lead you to judge, is it likely that yours will become a much larger mining district than it now is?—Yes; I think there is a great deal more stone to get.

3139. Is there any new ground to open?—Yes, there is new ground, which has been recently opened.

3140. Are leases being granted frequently?—Yes, it is sometimes by lease, and sometimes by purchase.

3141. What is the basis of rating coal in your district?—It is rated according to the quantity that is raised.

3142. Of course the basis must be so much per ton?—Yes, so much per ton.

3143. What is the average per ton?—In certain favourable situations it would be rated at about 7 *d.*; in others at about 9 *d.*

3144. Is that much less than is paid to the lessor or not?—Very much less; the rateable value would not be more than 1 *d.* a ton; about 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound would be about the maximum; that is not more than 1 *d.* and the eighth of 1 *d.*; perhaps where it is not so advantageously situated it would be about ½ *d.* a ton.

3145. Are accidents very frequent with you?—I have with me returns which I obtained from the coroner, which will show what number of accidents there

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have been. I find that there have been 96 deaths in the course of the last two years by accidents in mines; there have been, altogether, 279 inquests for the whole of the district, and out of that number 96 have been purely from accidents in mines.

3146. Do you know whether those accidents have occurred more in coal mines or in iron mines?—His opinion corroborated the opinion I had previously formed; he had not kept a separate account showing whether the accidents have occurred in coal mines or in ironstone mines, but he said he believed that about three-fifths of them would be from the stone mines.

3147. Do you find that the poor-rates are increasing or decreasing; I believe that the average rating of the last five years in Burslem has been 3*s.* 4*d.*, while in Wolstanton it has been 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; do you find that they are pretty stationary?—No; they have been rather excessive for the last two years; in the two years prior to that they were less; they have been as high as 5*s.* in the pound in Burslem parish, and 3*s.* in the pound in Wolstanton.

3148. Colonel *Pennant.*] Is the poundage taken at the rack-rent?—It would be about three-fourths of the rack-rent.

3149. In fact, it is only so much on three-fourths of the actual rentable value?—Yes.

3150. *Chairman.*] You talk of some coal mines and some ironworks; how are your ironworks rated?—I believe they are rated by the furnace; but the surveyor of the parish is here, and he will be able to speak to the mode of rating better than I can, and can give you the proportion of the rateable property. In Wolstanton parish the gross amount of rateable property is 54,489*l.* in round numbers, of which the coal mines and ironworks are 8,944*l.*

3151. Can you divide the ironworks from the coal mines?—I could do so, but I have not got the particulars with me; the farms and land are 13,006*l.*

3152. Colonel *Pennant.*] Are you now giving the rental value or the value at which they are rated?—The rateable value.

3153. *Chairman.*] Then there are houses, buildings, manufactories, and other property?—In Wolstanton parish they amount to 32,537*l.*

3154. Have you much house property there?—Yes, we have extensive manufactories.

3155. What manufactories have you?—Manufactories of earthenware.

3156. Potteries?—Yes, and flint mills, for producing articles for the use of manufactories, grinding flints, and so on.

3157. They are all rated, are they not?—Yes.

3158. How are they rated; as to the rental, or how?—Yes, as to the rental.

3159. But we have witnesses coming here, have we not, who will be able to speak more particularly than you can as to the Potteries?—Yes. It might be useful, perhaps, to give you the total for the union: the total for the union of Wolstanton and Burslem for coal mines and ironworks, would be 11,399*l.* 5*s.*; for farms and land, 17,455*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; and for houses, manufactories, mills, and other buildings, 69,313*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; making the total rateable value of the property in the whole union 98,167*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*

3160. Do you rate upon the rack-rental generally? Taking buildings at 100*l.* year, what should you rate them at?—They would be rated at about 60*l.*

3161. They would be rated at about two-thirds?—Yes.

3162. Land would be rated at a little more, would it not?—Yes.

3163. Would that be about 75*l.*?—Yes.

3164. Coal varies per ton, does it not?—Yes, coal varies a little, but not very materially; a little more than a farthing in the best situations, as compared with less advantageous situations.

3165. Have you any lime in your neighbourhood?—No, we have no lime.

3166. Do you think it a great anomaly that coal mines, potteries, and other descriptions of property should be rated, while ironstone mines are not rated?—Most assuredly I do. The ironstone is the most valuable portion of our mineral property; it certainly does appear strange that it should be exempt from rates, and it is a frequent source of complaint, more particularly from the colliers themselves. Coal proprietors who have no stone contribute very heavily to the highway-rates, and do not use the highway at all, inasmuch as they carry their coal on their own tramways. There are others who are stone-getters, and who employ 10 or a dozen carts upon the highway, and yet do not contribute a farthing towards their repair.

3167. In

3167. In many instances there are coal mines, are there not, having nothing to do with ironstone?—Yes.

3168. They pay to the poor-rate?—They pay to the highway-rate.

3169. And to the poor-rate also?—Yes.

3170. The iron is in the same parish?—Yes.

3171. The iron mine is entirely excluded from the poor-rate?—Yes.

3172. And it is entirely excluded from the highway-rate?—Yes.

3173. And yet they are the parties who principally destroy the highways, in consequence of their heavy cartage?—Just so.

3174. As I understand, in your district the iron you have is carted down to the canal or railway, to send to other districts to be manufactured?—Yes.

3175. Then you have not even this advantage, you have no furnaces or plant to fix; so that, in point of fact, the iron mine is free from every rate in your district?—We have furnaces. But the surveyor will be better able to speak to that question than I can; he has obtained a statistical account of what is consumed in the district and what is exported.

3176. In your neighbourhood what is the general feeling with respect to the question whether ironstone should be rated or not; do those parties who pay to the poor-rate, the coal proprietors, the potters, the house proprietors, and so on, feel it a grievance that they should pay towards the maintenance of the poor, whilst the iron mine is exempt?—They do very much so; but their attention is more particularly directed to the injury done to the highways, because that comes daily under their immediate notice: that, I think, is felt by them to be a greater grievance than the other.

3177. The poor-rate is felt to be a great grievance, but the highway-rate is felt to be a greater, inasmuch as they do not use the highways?—Yes, the coal proprietors use the highways; but they contribute to them, while the others do not.

3178. Colonel *Pennant*.] You have told us that a considerable proportion of your poor are irremoveable poor upon the union establishment?—A very large proportion.

3179. And are those people who have been brought into the neighbourhood from a distance by the operation of these mining works?—A considerable number of them have been brought in in consequence of the working in stone mines, inasmuch as it was new to the district, and the old colliers did not like it; they preferred continuing in their customary employment in the coal mines.

3180. Therefore those people have been brought from a distance into the union?—Yes they have.

3181. In setting or letting the mineral under ground, is the quantity of ironstone under the surface sold for ever to the individual who takes it. Suppose a second layer to be found besides that which is supposed to exist at the time of the letting, would that become the property of the lessee, if he chose to work it?—It is disposed of in various ways; sometimes the fee simple of the surface is sold as well as what is under ground. In other cases, the surface pays a rent separately. Sometimes the surface pays a rent to one man, while the mine pays a rent to another.

3182. I do not quite understand the way in which you rate the different species of property in your union; whether you rate it all upon three-fourths of the rental value, or whether you make a difference in respect of land and houses and other species of property?—Houses, manufactories, and so on, are rated generally at about three-fourths of the rack-rental. Land is rated at rather more than that, inasmuch as it is considered that one is a property that depreciates in value, while the other always maintains its value.

3183. In the case of coal mines or limestone quarries, or any mineral property of that sort where the corpus of the property is being consumed, do you make any further reduction?—The way in which coal is rated, is on the quantity raised. If none is raised, there is no rate.

3184. You take it, in fact, upon the full rental value?—No, it is not the full rental value; that would be in many cases, I dare say, from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton. We never take it at more than from 7 *d.* to 9 *d.*, and then the rateable and assessable value would be about a seventh or eighth of that. To simplify the thing, you may say it would be about 1 *d.* a ton.

3185. That is the amount you would actually levy upon the property for the relief of the poor. I am speaking of the rateable value which you fix upon that

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property as compared with its real value. You say that in the case of houses you take it about three-fourths of its real rental value?—Yes.

3186. I want to know whether you make any deduction, and if any, what deduction, in respect of coal mines or limestone quarries?—We have no quarries.

3187. Or in the case of any other property of which the actual corpus of the property is in the process of consumption?—I think you will see that it would be about the same proportion of reduction, inasmuch as the royalty usually paid is about 1*s.* a ton.

3188. Then it would be about three-fourths?—Yes.

3189. In your opinion are the ironstone works rateable to the police rate?—They are not rateable.

3190. Why are they not rateable; is not that a distinct rate from the poor's-rate?—They do not contribute to the poor-rate, and, therefore, they do not contribute to the police rate.

3191. Under the new Police Act would not that property be liable?—No; not being liable to the poor-rate it is exempt from the police rate.

3192. Mr. *Foster*.] Does the 7*d.* per ton, which you consider the basis of the rate with respect to coal mines, on the gross produce raised, include the small coal slack, and so on; do you put it as a round sum?—No; I do not think that a great deal of slack pays any rate. We place every confidence in the honour of the proprietors of mines, and take their returns. We do not wish to open that question with them. We seldom get any return except for coal.

3193. The rates, I think you say, have varied in the union of which you have been speaking?—Yes, they have been higher.

3194. Was that at all in consequence of there being any depreciation of the mining interests; or was it from the other occupations of the district throwing an increased amount of labour on the rates?—I think it was principally owing to the general trade of the district; the earthenware trade being depressed two years ago.

3195. That is a trade which does fluctuate very much, is it not?—Yes.

3196. It depends very much, does it not, upon the demand in foreign markets?—Yes.

3197. But a mine, when it is once opened, differs from a manufactory, does it not, in so far that it cannot be put to stand without a great sacrifice of outlay, and therefore, in a time of temporary slackness in the iron trade, an ironstone miner does not throw his men out of employ, generally speaking, but keeps his mine in operation, and stacks his ironstone upon the banks, waiting for a change in the times for the better, which will enable him to dispose of it?—Yes.

3198. Therefore, in point of fact, such is the nature of the underground outlay, that any temporary cessation of the demand for iron does not affect the mining operations of the district to any very great extent?—No, not so much as in the case of a manufactory.

3199. No so much as in the case of a manufactory, which can be put to stand without any great loss or inconvenience to the proprietor?—No.

3200. Therefore it may be assumed, may it not, that the increase in the rates may have arisen from some general depression in the district, and not from an accession of mining paupers?—Not altogether, certainly.

3201. Taking the miners generally as a class, in the union of which you have been speaking, are they, as they have been represented to the Committee to be in other parts of England, in the southern parts of Staffordshire, and also in South Wales, a class of men who are very reluctant to go upon the rates; do you think that there is a spirit of greater independence among them than there is among other classes of labourers?—I do not quite understand your question.

3202. Do you think that, among the mining operatives, there is a greater spirit of independence than pervades the labouring population generally, so as to render the miners less inclined to fall upon the rates than other classes of labourers?—No, I do not think that that is so; we find that they apply for relief quite as soon as any other class of men.

3203. But generally the field club is a very strong argument used by the poor-law officers, is it not, against granting a miner any considerable amount of relief?—What is granted by the field club is barely sufficient to support a man, and that is generally exhausted in a few weeks, and then we find that the wife also applies for relief after a few weeks have passed over, says that the field-club money is gone, and that we must give something more on that account. I do not say that that is generally the case, but it is so very frequently.

3204. With

3204. With regard to the effect of mining operations upon the value of property in its vicinity, do you think that the erection of works, and the employment of a large population, tends to increase the value of property in the neighbourhood?—No, I do not think so; because its value would be only increased, if at all, as building land, and the building that would chiefly be required would be cottages.

3205. Do you know the town of Wolverhampton?—Yes.

3206. And Dudley?—Yes.

3207. Do you think that they are prosperous towns?—Yes.

3208. If mining operations were to cease in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton, do you think it would still be called the metropolis of the iron district, the name which it has now acquired?—No; but Wolverhampton is a very important agricultural district; on the Shropshire side it is a purely agricultural district, while on the Birmingham side it is a purely manufacturing district.

3209. We will take Shrewsbury on the one side, and Wolverhampton on the other; what is it that tends to create the great difference that is apparent to any observer between those two towns?—The one is a very extensive manufacturing town, and the other is not.

3210. Do you think that the immediate vicinity of the Great South Staffordshire coal field has had nothing to do with the rise, progress, and prosperity of the towns of Wolverhampton or of Dudley?—I should say that it had a good deal to do with the prosperity of both those towns; but you cannot compare Wolverhampton with Shrewsbury; they are very different towns; Wolverhampton is a very extensive manufacturing town, making locks, bolts, hinges, papier maché articles, and so on; while Shrewsbury is a purely agricultural town.

3211. Do you not think that Wolverhampton owes its prosperity to its contiguity to these mines?—I think there can be no doubt about that; I cannot dispute it for a moment.

3212. Have the complaints been very serious on the part of the agriculturists, so far as you are aware, with regard to the oppressive burthen of their rates?—Very much so.

3213. Are they higher in your neighbourhood than they are in the agricultural neighbourhoods around?—Yes; we have a population of 40,000 people; we have not more than 2,000 acres of land, and that portion is very much burthened with local taxes.

3214. At the same time, you derive a great proportion of your rates, do you not, from houses and manufactories?—Yes.

3215. Which houses are occupied, I suppose, a good deal by the mining population and shopkeepers, and other persons who are dependents upon the mines?—Yes.

3216. So that, indirectly, the poor-rates derive a considerable amount of revenue from that source, in connexion with the mines?—In some instances that is the case; but at present it is increasing upon us; comparatively speaking, the working of mines of ironstone is in its infancy.

3217. Mr. *Williams*.] You are decidedly of opinion, are you not, that the parties working iron mines ought to contribute towards the maintenance of their own poor?—Decidedly I am.

3218. And that it would be unjust for the agricultural interests to maintain exclusively the poor population occasioned by the iron mines?—Yes.

3219. Mr. *Child*.] You have given us an analysis of the proportions of the mining population, dividing them into fifths; you say that two-fifths are employed in coal mines, and three-fifths in ironstone mines?—Yes.

3220. Do you know what proportion they bear to the mining population generally?—No, I do not.

3221. You mentioned, I think, what was paid in the way of relief to the mining population, did you not?—Yes.

3222. Can you state what is paid to the manufacturing poor?—About one-tenth is paid to miners in proportion to what is paid to all the others.

3223. Do you know what is paid to the others; you divide the relief into tenths?—In two years the amount of relief to in and out-door poor has been about 15,000 *l.*; and 1,500 *l.* of that has been paid to families connected with mining operations.

3224. Have you any analysis of the labouring population generally?—No separate analysis.

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3225. What is the nature of the accidents generally that have occurred in these mines?—They are of various kinds; some of them are from the falling of stone; others are from the rope breaking in the pit, and so on.

3226. Are there any accidents in iron mines from firedamp, or anything of that kind?—No, I believe not; it is very seldom that such accidents occur.

3227. I think you have said that the surface of the property is deteriorated by the operation of the mines?—Yes.

3228. Does not the surface belong to the proprietor to whom the mines belong?—Not in all cases.

3229. Can you mention any instances in which they do not?—I do not recollect any at this moment; but I do not think that that is material, because it is the tenant who claims a diminution of his rates in respect of the amount of land spoilt in the getting of the mine.

3230. I think that in your parish there are no manorial rights?—No.

3231. The furnaces are rated, are they not?—Yes, they are.

3232. At how much are they rated?—I think at about 60*l.* a furnace.

3233. How many men would be employed in a furnace of that kind?—I do not know; another witness can speak to those points which I have not gone into, and he will be able to give you some statistical information upon the subject.

3234. *Chairman.*] You were asked a question with regard to the depreciation in the value of ironstone, and you said that at certain times the lessees are obliged to stock largely, while heavy expenses are going on; you say that on those operations there is a large outlay and no profit: the object of that stocking, I suppose, is, that they may wait for a rise in the market?—They do stock, no doubt.

3235. As far as your experience goes, has that stocking been a matter of profit or of loss; have they not gained considerably by being able to stock?—I remember an instance, two years ago, of a friend of mine in Wolstanton parish, who, when his agent in the south could only obtain a certain price for his ironstone (12*s.* or 13*s.*, I think), said, "I will stock it for six months before I will sell it at that price." It is quite a common thing in mining districts for them to stock: there would of course be a limit to it, as there is to everything.

3236. Do you think that this stocking is so far a matter of loss, that they ought to be exempt from poor-rates in consequence thereof; because it comes to that?—No, I do not think that; they must be men of capital who stock, and they stock generally with a view to their own advantage, until they can get their price.

3237. As far as stocking goes, it is generally a matter of profit and not of loss, is it not?—There is no depreciation by stocking. A manufacturer cannot stock, because he generally works to order.

3238. Colonel *Pennant.*] But in the ironworks they do not turn their hands out of work in consequence of stocking, do they?—No; by stocking they prevent that.

3239. Mr. *Child.*] Are not most of the ironworks connected with coalworks?—I believe that most of them are; I think it is the exception where it is not so.

3240. Where an iron mine is not connected with a coalworking, it is an exception, is it not?—I think so, as far as my knowledge goes.

Thomas Cope, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Cope, Esq.

3241. *Chairman.*] YOU are Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Parish of Stoke-upon-Trent?—Yes.

3242. How many parishes have you there?—One parish.

3243. What is the population of it?—57,946 at the last census in 1851.

3244. What is the rateable value of your parish?—The rateable value of the entire parish is 143,924*l.*

3245. Can you tell us out of that what properties are assessed in that parish: You have coal mines assessed; what other species of property is assessed?—Manufactories, houses, shops, land tenements of all descriptions, canals, railways, and everything in fact except ironstone.

3246. What are the principal manufactories?—Earthenware and china.

3247. They are rated?—They are rated.

3248. On what is the rate based?—On the rental.

3249. Not on the entire rental, I suppose?—No.

3250. What deduction is made?—One-sixth is taken off; five-sixths are rated.

3251. How is purely agricultural land rated; is that rated on the rental?—I believe

believe so. Mr. Higginbottom the surveyor will be able to tell you that better than I can.

3252. Have you any idea at all as to the relative value of the ironstone property at Stoke-upon-Trent?—No, I have not.

3253. Who are the owners of the principal royalties of the ironstone mines in your district?—The Duke of Sutherland and the Duchy of Lancaster.

3254. Have they simply the royalties, or do they possess the surface also?—The Duke of Sutherland possesses the surface; the other is only copyhold.

3255. Only the mineral?—Only the mineral; there are several large owners besides, but not so extensive as those I have named.

3256. Are you aware at all what the Duke of Sutherland receives in the way of royalty for ironstone?—I am not.

3257. Is there very considerable ironstone property in that district?—Very.

3258. Is it as valuable as the coal, do you think?—Quite so.

3259. Do you know what proportion the coal bears, with reference to rating, to the houses, manufactories, and so on?—I do not.

3260. Can you give us any approximation to it?—The rateable value of the coal mines now in the parish is 12,878 *l.*

3261. You hold, do you not, that the iron mines are more valuable as a property than the coal mines?—In the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent they are.

3262. They pay more in the way of royalties to the lessors?—I should say so; there is a large estate at Fenton where nothing but ironstone is gotten. Mr. Sparrow, who works coal and ironstone mines under the Duke of Sutherland, took this estate expressly for the ironstone; very little coal is gotten besides.

3263. Mr. *Child.*] What estate is that?—Messrs. Painter & Grosvenor's, at Fenton.

3264. *Chairman.*] Then out of 120,000 *l.* a year in rateable property there is more than 12,000 *l.* a year in value, as far as the royalty goes, in the case of ironstone that does not pay a farthing?—I should say so.

3265. Is there any plant at all in the case of those iron mines which pays anything?—Yes,

3266. Are there any furnaces?—Yes, three furnaces.

3267. Do you know what they pay?—I do not.

3268. What does the ironstone pay as a royalty generally?—I do not know.

3269. How long have you acted as chairman of the Board of Guardians?—This year. I had been on the Board before.

3270. You were vice-chairman, were you not?—Yes.

3271. Your attention, I dare say, is called frequently to the occurrence of mining accidents?—Yes.

3272. Have you many accidents arising in coal mines?—Yes; I have a return here from the coroner of the number of inquests held; it is a statistical statement of the number of widows and orphans upon whose husbands and fathers inquisitions have been held by reason of mining operations, with the amount of relief given for the last two years ending at Lady-day 1857. There are 13 widows and 42 children; seven were settled in the parish, and six were not settled; the amount of relief given was 108 *l.* 9 *s.* 10½ *d.*, and relief is still continued to some of these parties.

3273. Were those cases of accident occurring in coal mines or in ironstone mines?—They are not separated.

3274. So far as you are aware, are accidents more frequent in coal mines, or in iron mines?—They are generally described as miners, and not having any data to go upon, I do not know what relative proportions they bear to each other.

3275. Do you find that the clubs either in the coal or iron mines assist you at all?—Very little; in the case of burial clubs, for instance, a widow may receive 10 *l.* on the death of her husband, but at the time of the funeral they invariably spend the whole of it in feasting; that is the case with those who are of improvident habits; others find mourning for their families; but the widow invariably applies for relief within a week after the accident has occurred.

3276. You generally find, then, that when an accident of a serious nature occurs the whole of the family is thrown upon the union?—Yes.

3277. What relief do you generally give; you have a sort of maximum, I suppose; suppose a man has an accident, and he has a wife who is obliged to attend upon him and two children besides, what relief would you give in such a case as that?—It would depend upon circumstances; from two shillings to half-a-crown a head,

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a head, according to the size of the children; it would depend upon whether they were grown up or not, or in what condition they were.

3278. Is the poor's-rate in your neighbourhood increasing or decreasing?—Increasing.

3279. Is the increase, according to your experience, attributable to the neighbourhood of the mines?—Perhaps not altogether, but that is certainly one ingredient.

3280. Do you see any reason at all why ironstone mines should be exempt from the poor's-rate?—None whatever.

3281. In Stoke-upon-Trent have you much good farming or grazing land?—The parish being so extensive, it of course includes some of all sorts. Where mining operations are carried on the surface of the land is generally very much injured, and very considerably deteriorated in value.

3282. Is the value of the produce enhanced much by the presence of the miners?—It is diminished; that is to say, the land will not produce the same quantity that it would produce under other circumstances.

3283. Is the value of that which is produced enhanced by the consumption of the miners, or is there a ready sale for the produce elsewhere?—There is a ready sale for the produce anywhere, the different modes of transit being now so convenient.

3284. You do not think, then, that the agriculturist is in any way dependent upon the miners for the sale of his produce?—No.

3285. Would the rates, do you think, be considerably less than they now are if the mines were not there?—It would have an effect, no doubt.

3286. Then, whilst you maintain in part the miners, you hold that the mine is not a benefit to the agriculturist?—Yes.

3287. Do the iron mines contribute at all to the repair of the highways?—No, they do not. In the town of Longton, where I was on the Board of Highways for two or three years, they consumed, in repairing the roads which were cut up by the ironstone carts, one-tenth part of the entire gross rate.

3288. Mr. *Foster*.] Generally speaking, the ironstone mines, I presume, have their tramways to the nearest point of junction with the canal, and where they draw upon the highway it is the exception rather than the rule, is it not?—No; there is no canal running near to any ironstone got in Stoke parish; they have to go a distance of from a mile and a half to two miles on the road before they get to the canal.

John Higginbottom, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Higginbottom, Esq.

3289. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your profession?—I am a Surveyor.

3290. Are you employed much in surveying at Stoke-upon-Trent?—I have been employed for 13 years by the guardians of Stoke-upon-Trent.

3291. In fixing the rates do you mean?—We have generally four rates in the year; preparatory to those rates being made the collectors of each district have instructions to seek out all new buildings and alterations, and to enter in their books any complaints that may be made of inequalities; prior to the laying of the rate the guardians direct that this shall be examined and reported upon, which it falls upon me to do.

3292. So that, in point of fact, if there be any new mine of any kind you must know it?—Yes; I have to attend to it.

3293. And you report upon it?—Yes.

3294. Which do you find increasing most in your district, properties connected with ironstone or properties connected with coal?—It mainly depends upon the state of trade as to the raising of coal.

3295. Which description of property is upon the increase, the coal or the ironstone property?—The ironstone property is on the increase, and when trade is good there is a difference in the raising of coal.

3296. Taking the mineral properties in your district, you find that the ironstone property is on the increase?—Decidedly.

3297. I suppose it is a fair inference from that that the ironstone is the most profitable of the two?—I infer that it is; in fact I know it is.

3298. Have you any idea of the amount of royalties paid for ironstone and coal in Stoke-upon-Trent?—I cannot form an idea except from inference; I assume that the amount paid for royalties upon coal would be 9,524 *l.*; that

is

is the gross value upon which it was rated in 1856-7, and the assumption is that that should be the amount paid by the tenants at rentals, and realised by the landlord who works his own mines, because there are various parties who do so in Stoke; that is increased perhaps by 10 per cent.

3299. What do you estimate is raised from ironstone in the way of royalty; do you think that the royalties upon coal are about 9,000*l.*?—Yes, I do; the calcined ore that is consumed in the district and sent away would amount to 288,000 tons.

3300. Take the royalties; what do you make for the whole?—They would be worth about 1 *s.* a ton; that would be 14,400 *l.* in round numbers.

3301. Then it would be nearly a third more than the other?—Yes.

3302. It is as two to three?—Decidedly; I may observe here that nearly the whole of the ironstone that is used in the parish is raised in the parish; the whole of the coal that is consumed in the parish is not raised in the parish; the parish of Caverswall immediately abuts upon the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent at its eastern extremity, and we have a great deal of coal raised in that parish which is consumed in the parish of Stoke; the Shelton ironworks, it is estimated, import from Leicestershire or Derbyshire 30,000 tons a year, and there is imported from Norton and Apedale and other places about 10,000 tons a year.

3303. What number of hands do you think are employed in these ironstone works?—That I can only say from inference, I estimate them throughout the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent at 640 men.

3304. Do you come to the same conclusion as that which has been come to by the other witnesses, that of mineral workings the most profitable are the ironstone workings?—I do.

3305. Of those who send paupers to the workhouse and to the union do the ironstone proprietors send the larger proportion?—No, I think not in our parish, because we have a great many more colliers than we have ironstone-getters.

3306. Do you find from what you hear that the working, as far as it goes, of the ironstone mines is more dangerous or more liable to accident than the working of the coal mines?—Inasmuch as their workings are shallower, and the roofs tender, they are exposed a good deal to falls from the roof; I do not know that there is any other distinction; they are, however, exempt in a great measure from that which the colliers are liable to—accidents from explosions of gas, though I may say that most of the ironstones have small veins of coal lying with them, and to a certain extent gas exudes from them. I should say, as a whole, that accidents from stone in our parish are not equal to those from coal.

3307. As regards the highway-rates, are they heavy?—No, but the ironstone miners contribute nothing towards them, and in the township of Longton, I am assured by the clerk of the Board that the greatest proportion of the expense incurred there is entirely owing to the mineral traffic that goes over the roads.

3308. And the ironstone proprietors pay nothing towards it?—Nothing.

3309. Do you see any reason why they should be free?—No; I have contended for years that it is a great injustice to the rest of the parishioners that they should be free.

3310. Have the parishioners felt the same thing themselves?—Universally as far as I have conversed with them; in point of fact it is a general ground of complaint; I have never spoken to any one who has given a thought upon the subject, and who pays rates, who has not considered that the guardians have been much to blame for not having moved in the matter years ago.

3311. Did you ever know an ironstone miner who gave any good reason why ironstone should be exempt?—I never heard any; the ironmasters that I have conversed with have never offered any better reason why it should be exempt, than saying that they employ a great number of people, and that they bring many people into the neighbourhood; then when I come to put the question to them why should coal pay, they say that coal ought not to pay; that is the utmost I have been able to get from them.

3312. They hold that as coal and iron bring in a consuming population, they therefore enhance the value of property in the immediate neighbourhood, and that for that reason the parties holding that property ought to pay for the maintenence of their poor?—I think not.

3313. But that is their argument, is it not?—Yes, that is the argument used by the ironmasters.

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3314. The ironmasters say that they ought to be free, and that coal ought to be free?—Yes.

3315. Because they bring in a consuming population, and thereby enhance the value of the landed property in the neighbourhood?—Yes.

3316. But that you hold not to be the case?—Yes; there is another thing that I would observe; we are great consumers of coal in the potteries, in our staple trade; I remember that when I first came to live in the neighbourhood, the ironmasters were looked on with great jealousy by the potters, because their consumption of coal being so large had the effect of enhancing the value of that article; personally they would rather have been without them; I do not agree with them; when I came to the potteries there had been two furnaces erected; I am speaking now of 25 years since; subsequently to that time other furnaces were built; we have now 12 in blast in the parish, and another is preparing to go into blast.

3317. The potteries pay to the poor-rates, do they not?—Yes, all the potteries pay and all the manufactories pay; the steam-engines used for the flint mills also pay.

3318. All the potteries have steam-engines, have they not?—Not all; some of the largest have; Mr. Alderman Copeland has a powerful engine, and so have Messrs. Minton and others.

3319. They contribute largely to the poor's rate, do they not?—They do.

3320. Have you got a canal there?—Yes.

3321. Does that contribute also largely to the poor-rate?—Yes.

3322. And the railway?—Yes; but the canal, more especially.

3323. You hold it to be a great grievance, do you not, that they should pay, while the ironstone mines are exempt?—Yes; and every one I have conversed with on the subject considers it a great grievance; I have a return of mills here that are rated.

3324. Will you have the goodness to give us the sum total?—I have here a return of 24 manufacturers whose rates were taken out of the book by one of the clerks in the office without any particular directions by me; I did not give him any instructions how to do it; there are some of the largest among them; these 24 manufacturers paid in 1856-57, 1,029 *l.* 11 *s.* rates; 11 of these manufacturers hold mills for which they paid 266 *l.* 14 *s.* 4 *d.*, making together 1,296 *l.* 5 *s.* 4 *d.*; in point of fact, 24 manufacturers in the district pay for their manufactories, steam-engines, and mills, within 136 *l.* 18 *s.* of all the collieries in the parish.

3325. Colonel *Pennant*.] Have you any furnaces?—We have twelve.

3326. Are those furnaces for the purpose of smelting the ironstone raised in your district?—Yes.

3327. Are those furnaces rated in any proportion to the amount of the ironstone smelted in them?—No, they are not even rated to the amount of the buildings; 13 years ago, when I was first employed, there were seven furnaces in blast; the amount of rates paid for them was very trifling, and I have continually drawn the attention of the guardians to this glaring impropriety; four others have been erected since, and in consultation with the clerk it was thought advisable that we should not take this beyond that at which the other furnaces were taken, or we should bring upon ourselves an appeal, in which we should be sure to be beaten; they therefore pay only 29 *l.* 2 *s.* 11 *d.* a rate, or 116 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* a year; it is not the price of a small factory; I should say that in these there are steam-engines of upwards of 500 horse-power for the blowing machinery.

3328. In point of fact, you think that those furnaces are in no way rated in proportion to the amount upon which they ought to be rated?—Most decidedly not.

3329. Is there any deduction, or what difference is there made in fixing the rateable value of the different species of property as compared with the actual rental value?—As far as I am aware, the value of the land may be said to be taken at its gross value; at something like 10 per cent. under rental.

3330. Of deduction?—That is for the gross value; 10 per cent. less than the rental; in some cases it would amount to 15, but none perhaps higher than that; then from that we deduct one-twelfth, and rate upon that.

3331. You first deduct 10 per cent.?—No, we assume a value, and that is generally less than the absolute rental; I have tried it in a number of instances; there may be instances in which it would not be more than five; the value of the

lands

lands in the parish have been taken chiefly something like 26 years ago, and necessarily there are some discrepancies in the rate, because many of the farms have been much improved; I may point to one farm near Hanley, which is now worth nearly as much again as it was worth when I first recollect it; it belongs to Mr. Alderman Copeland; it may be found in other places where there is much annoyance from trespass, near collieries, that the value is a shade less, and the price charged may be equal to the rent paid; it is impossible in a large parish to keep these things continually in view; but whenever complaints are made they are always attended to.

3332. You afterwards make a deduction of one-twelfth from that?—Yes.

3333. What do you do in the case of houses?—We deduct one-sixth of the rental value, that is, they are taken upon their estimated value; there is a discrepancy in the case of houses also. There are some houses that are rated a great deal higher than the rent. We had an appeal some time ago from a house called the Mount, built by the late Mr. Spode. The house was valued at 100 *l.* per annum; the tenant paid but 80 *l.*, and proved that in evidence; but the magistrates decided against him, because the estimated value was 100 *l.* a year and upwards. That was a case in which the rating was higher than the rental; but that does not obtain generally.

3334. You have to make a greater deduction from the rental, have you not, in the case of houses than in the case of land?—Yes.

3335. If there are any open quarries or works of that sort, do you make any further deduction on account of the corpus of the estate being in the course of consumption?—We take the estimated annual value. We have returns made every year by the coalowners to myself as to the amount of coals raised, and the prices of them, and upon that a certain amount is fixed as the rental, and from that amount one-sixth is deducted, and we rate upon the remainder.

3336. Then, in fact, you put them upon the same footing as houses?—Yes.

3337. In the event of iron mines being rated, would you conceive that it would be fair to put them upon the same footing as to deductions as coal mines?—Yes.

3338. Do you see that there would be any greater difficulty in ascertaining the rateable value of iron mines than there is in ascertaining the rateable value of coal mines in your district?—I do not.

3339. How would you fix it?—I should take it upon the ore raised; I think, also, that there ought to be some discretionary power given, that when the works in particular mines are difficult, and where the cost to the proprietor is greater than the cost to his neighbour, power should be given to the party having to rate them to make some allowance for that. For instance, I know a case in which the mine was taken out at so much per acre; it is not in our parish, but I had to go over it the other day; they pay 300 *l.* per acre per mine for the ironstone; there is a party who has taken the adjacent land; the area is about equal, and in the one case they are paying one and sixpence a ton for calcined stone, whilst in the other they are not paying sixpence.

3340. Have you works in which coal and iron are worked in the same mine?—In Stoke parish that prevails, I think, generally.

3341. How would you separate the expense of working the two if they are both worked in the same mine?—When the thickness of the coal and the ironstone is known, it can be ascertained easily what the cost of raising it would be.

3342. The cost of raising each separately?—Yes.

3343. There would be no difficulty in that respect?—No.

3344. Mr. *Foster*.] How much do the rates average in the pound in the parish of Stoke?—Three shillings and a penny half-penny; last year they were three shillings and fourpence.

3345. Do you consider that that is much above the average?—No; three shillings and a penny half-penny has been about the average of the last twelve years.

3346. Is that much above the average of other parishes in the county?—It is considerably over the average of the agricultural parishes which surround us.

3347. In applying the principle of rating to ironstone mines, you admit the necessity for some peculiar arrangements, with a view to meet particular cases, do you not?—I do.

3348. May not that show to some extent the difficulty that there has been, and ever will be, in applying any one system of rating to mining operations, which should act fairly and equitably as regards all parties?—I have no doubt that there

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is a difficulty there; I do not think from what I have read of the evidence which has been given before this Committee with reference to following out lodes of copper and lead, that the same law would do for them as would do in our case.

3349. Uncertainty is an important element, is it not, in all underground operations?—To a certain extent; the mines will vary somewhat in thickness; we now and then also meet with faults, but they are determinable in the present day in a great measure in the district in which I reside; I only know one instance in which a colliery has sustained a severe loss. In that case the proprietor has now allowed the son of the previous lessee who has died recently to retire from it, giving him some time to dispose of his plant; that is the only case of the kind that I know of.

3350. Are you aware that it is not an unfrequent case in those parts of the county of which you have been speaking for a colliery to be abandoned after a very large outlay of capital has been embarked upon it, not by a stranger to the district, but by experienced miners, who might be supposed to be thoroughly well conversant with the particular district, and for those parties who have sunk pits, and laid out very large sums of money upon the works, to be very glad to get the lessors to allow them to abandon their leases, leaving a very large amount of dead capital behind them, to the extent in some instances of many thousands of pounds?—I only know of one instance of that kind, and that is in the Broadfield Colliery. That was in consequence of the excess of water. There the workings were at a stand-still for some time.

3351. Are you not aware that that has been the case in the Bentley district, in the neighbourhood of Walsall?—No.

3352. Are you not aware that there 50,000 *l.* or 60,000 *l.* have been sunk by experienced miners in the district, and left behind for the lessor?—That may be. I was employed in an appeal case at Walsall a few years ago. At that time the Bentley ironworks were void, and I passed them over, but I heard nothing of its being about the badness of the mines. The works were taken afterwards by a person who became bankrupt there, I think. I went through all the ironworks in the neighbourhood of Walsall at that time, and through all the collieries also.

3353. How long ago is that?—That was in 1854.

3354. Is it the fact that the quantities of produce raised from a mine are not of themselves sufficient data upon which to form the basis of a rate?—That would be the principal element.

3355. Whether it has been got profitably or unprofitably?—That would be the principal element.

3356. But you are aware, are you not, that in mining operations a very large amount of coal may be raised, and little or no profit obtained; and that a less amount may be raised, and a very considerable profit obtained?—Yes, I am aware of that perfectly; but I think that if you were to act upon that, you would be opening a question of profits, which I think we should not touch upon if we can help it. I decidedly object to anything of that kind. The rule laid down by the Parochial Assessment Act to rate a place at what it is worth, has always seemed to me to be the fairest system that could be adopted.

3357. Colonel *Pennant.*] In the event of no royalty being paid at all where the proprietor is working his own mine, on what principle would you rate him if you did not go to a certain extent into the question of profits?—There is always a difficulty there, because the onus is thrown upon the valuer to prove what the value would be. When I was in Walsall, the ironworks there were principally in the hands of the parties who owned them; they objected that the rates which it was then attempted to fasten upon them were too high; it cost me some trouble to obtain an example in that neighbourhood, which I ultimately did at Wednesbury, where there were the Broadwater furnaces belonging to Sir Horace St. Paul. I found them let at 500 *l.* per annum; I went to the parish officers in Wednesbury, and took out the rate, and I have here a copy of it; two furnaces and engines with a hot-air apparatus to one furnace; and filling apparatus to both; 326 *l.* gross, 296 *l.* rateable. A blacksmith's shop was rated 7 *l.* 10 *s.* gross, 6 *l.* 10 *s.* rateable.

3358. Those furnaces were let, I understand?—Yes.

3359. I am supposing the case of a person working his own mines?—If there were other mines working in that neighbourhood, and if they were let, they would afford a fair criterion; like things should be considered alike, otherwise there must be a judgment exercised by the party employed to value those mines.

3360. How

3360. How would you get at it without ascertaining the difference in the expense of working the ore, which varies, you say, in different mines; how can you get the rateable value without going into the question of profits, if there is a difference in the expense of working the material up to the surface in different mines?—I do not think that the first expense of going down to the coals, and the erection of the steam-engine or winding power, should be considered as a drawback in the matter, because that the tenant expects to get back, or to be remunerated for by a portion of his profits.

3361. Mr. *Foster*.] You say you do not think that the profit should be an element of calculation?—No.

3362. But the annual value to rent?—Yes.

3363. Am I right in assuming that the meaning of rent is something paid for the annual use of a thing; can you give me an instance in which the term "rent" can be applied to any description of property where it does not imply the annual use of the property?—Do you mean apart from mines.

3364. Yes; any instance in which it does not imply the annual use of a property?—We rate clay pits and gray marl and stone quarries, where what is taken out, is taken away.

3365. Actually, therefore, the term "rent" is scarcely applicable to such cases, is it?—It is the rent, or the royalty, if that term would be better; I call the royalty the rent, because it reduces itself to that; that which is paid to the lord is, in my opinion, a fair element on which to rate, and if the mines are worked by the lord, if we could get at the value to let, that would be the sum upon which the property should be rated.

3366. Or the sales of the mines, payable by annual instalments, would, I presume also, be the rental or royalty of those mines?—The mine is sold by instalments when it is taken away, I suppose.

3367. It is sold to be dealt with as the purchaser may think fit hereafter?—Certainly.

3368. Does it not more resemble a sale than a rent?—I fully admit that mine taken away, to that amount is taken from the earth, but it is of no value when it is in the earth; it is only when it is raised up that it is of value.

3369. But it has that peculiarity about it, has it not, that it is taken away and disposed of; in fact, you may say, supposing the estate to be in the mine apart from the surface, that it is a sale of that estate?—Certainly; but that estate is valueless as long as it remains there; it is only when it is raised up to the surface, and converted into something which has in itself a value, that it is valuable at all.

3370. But inasmuch as the surface bears an annual and permanent value, and this only bears a value when it comes to the light of day, do you think that the two cases ought to be dealt with similarly?—I would place them both under what is called the parochial assessment, and I would rate them at that which a tenant would give for them if let from year to year.

3371. But you have stated that you find a difficulty, and almost an impossibility, in rating in that way, as you are obliged to get returns of the quantities?—That has been found in practice to be the most convenient mode; I found it so when I came to Stoke. I do not say that in practice it works well; it is within the power of the tenant either to render a return or not, as he pleases. I have known some instances in which I have been placed under the very unpleasant necessity of demurring to those returns. I have done so on my own account when they have made them. When one gentleman has complained of his neighbour, that although he has raised as much coal as he has, and although he has got a better price for it, the rates he has paid have not been as much, I have in those cases immediately applied to the party accused of making a return which was not correct, and I am sorry to say that I have found that there has been truth in the complaint, and I have rectified it as quickly as I could. There would be a very great deal of unnecessary overlooking on the part of any party employed to value coal mines, if we had the power of going into them to dial or measure them; because if we were to take the underground workings, it would be necessary for the parish to have a plan of every working, which would not only be a very expensive, but a very inconvenient and oppressive thing. I think that in any enactment there should be something compulsory on the part of the miner, or coal or stone-getter. I think that, if necessary, he should submit his books to a superior officer at least once a year, as some of our colliers do now; we alter the rates

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every year. I think that some provision of that kind should be made, for under present circumstances the duty is a very unpleasant one.

3372. You are obliged to get at it as you can?—Yes. I can mention an instance now in which the largest collier in the district refused to make a return; I have made it for him, and fixed the amount. He has already given notice of appeal, and we shall contest the matter, and then he will be obliged to produce his books, because we shall give him notice to do so.

3373. Is it not the fact, that buildings, steam-engines, and other plants which are erected, and which are necessary in connexion with an ironwork, have not the same permanent character as farm buildings and agricultural buildings have?—As far as their solidity goes, they have quite as much, but they are not so permanent in their uses, I admit. I have sold off the entire plant of several collieries myself, and they have been entirely swept away.

3374. They are of very little value, are they not, except as old iron and old bricks, when the minerals are exhausted to which they have been attached?—No; if you move a building from one side of the road to another, it is only worth what the bricks and materials will fetch.

3375. The cost of the plant, in the first instance, is very great?—Do you allude to winding engines?

3376. All kinds of engines, furnaces, mills, and everything connected with the working up of the minerals?—Yes, and besides the injury done to them in taking them down, there is sometimes a difficulty in finding a customer for them.

3377. In point of fact, these buildings I presume have only a value as erections so long as the mines last?—Only so long as the mines last.

3378. And as the mine wears out in the natural course of things, and as the very wearing out or exhaustion of the mine absorbs altogether or rather destroys the value of the buildings, do you consider that the rating of that description of property is essentially different from rating the surface of the land and the buildings thereon, which would always carry with them a permanent and annual value?—In a degree; sometimes those buildings and engines are worn out by the work they have performed, and they would have to be taken down, or expensive repairs would have to be applied to them to enable them to go on if the mines were not worked out. The manufacturers in the Staffordshire potteries labour under the same inconvenience with respect to their steam mills. We make a reduction from their gross value on account of the extremely heavy work they are put to do, which shakes and tears the machinery to pieces; it is not unfrequent that breakages occur to a great extent, so that the machinery, in fact, in the course of years, is reconstructed.

3379. Mr. *Davey.*] You make a reduction in case of those buildings, do you not?—We reduce one-sixth from those buildings and one-third from the machinery.

3380. Is that the principle upon which you act with regard to agricultural land; do you rate the homesteads?—I do not know a single instance of my own knowledge in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent in which what we call a homestead is rated. The land is taken at per acre. There may be some instances of the kind, but I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

3381. The homesteads are considered as coming within the rental of the farm?—Yes; the custom is for a landlord to charge so much per acre, and the buildings on the farm form one element in the calculation. We have followed in the same way, and I do not see any objection to it.

3382. Mr. *Child.*] You consider the buildings as merely appurtenances to the farm?—That is how they have been treated in practice.

3383. Do I understand you correctly as saying that you did not consider land in the vicinity of coal and iron mines improved in value by its contiguity to them?—I did not intend to say so; I must have been misunderstood. A fortnight ago I sold less than seven acres of land near Burslem for 4,730*l.*; that had mines in it certainly. I pay myself, for less than an acre and a quarter, 9*l.* a year, with all the tithes and taxes, but then it is a matter of convenience.

3384. Mr. *Williams.*] Do you consider that the iron mines ought to be rated on the amount of the royalty or rent?—The amount of royalty is the rent.

3385. Do you consider that the iron mines ought to contribute to the maintenance of their own poor?—I do, most decidedly.

3386. *Chairman.*] You were asked, just now, something about certain leases being abandoned?—I only know of one; I do not know, in fact, that the lease is abandoned now, but I know that the workings are drowned out, and that very great

great expense has been incurred there. It is a great pity, for it was a very valuable mine. *T. Higginbottom, Esq.*

3387. Do you think that the parties who began that speculation, and failed, were or were not benefactors to that neighbourhood; did they occasion a loss by the introduction of paupers there?—Not in a great degree, because they are carrying on extensive workings in the same field as that in which the mine I speak of is now unproductive. Other shafts have been sunk, and other workings are carried on there. 30 June 1857.

3388. As to the difficulty of ascertaining what a lord ought to pay where he works his iron mine, would it not be fair to do this: to ascertain, as far as possible, the kind of coal that is worked there, and then for the surveyor taking the average of places in the neighbourhood under similar circumstances to rate him according to the custom prevailing in the neighbourhood?—I should rate the lord precisely as though he were tenant.

3389. You would calculate what it would let for?—Yes.

3390. And it would be for him to appeal to the quarter sessions if he thought he was overrated?—Yes.

3391. So that there would be no greater practical difficulty in rating parties who work their own ground, than there is in rating parties who are lessees?—Not a bit more.

Enoch Wedgwood, Esq., called in; and Examined.

3392. *Chairman.*] HAVE you given much attention to the working of iron and coal mines?—Yes; I may state that until I resigned the situation, I was chairman of the Local Board of Health, and therefore the operation of the law as it now stands came under my frequent observation, and I have considered the operation of it for some years. *E. Wedgwood, Esq.*

3393. Have you considered it especially as regards the rating of mines?—I have considered it more particularly with regard to its operation for municipal and town purposes. Tunstall is one of the 12 townships of the parish of Wolstanton, and although it contains only one-thirteenth of the acreage, it pays more than one-third of the entire poor-rates, and contains more than one-third of the population. I suppose that a greater amount of ironstone is raised from that particular township and its immediate vicinity, than from the whole parish of Burslem, or Stoke-upon-Trent.

3394. And the whole of the ironstone is free from rating?—Yes, it is free.

3395. Do you think that it ought to be free?—I think that it ought not to be free; I think it should be subject to assessment in the same way in which any other mining property is.

3396. What are your chief reasons for thinking that it should be rated as well as other mineral property?—The production of the township of Tunstall at present is upwards of 150,000 tons of ironstone per year, and if you take a radius of a few hundred yards beyond the extent of the township, it will give at least 250,000 tons a year. I mention that, because the ironstone in its calcined state passes over the highways. I may mention, that as a guardian for the poor for the parish of Wolstanton, I have for several years noticed that a great proportion of accidents in mining operations have been in connexion with the ironstone works, and that many families in consequence are relieved, and others are entirely supported for years by the parish, and some have become permanent paupers; and further, that as cheap and unskilled labour is freely used in the recovery, calcination, and transit of ironstone, and such persons (being so frequently of improvident habits) with their families become local burdens, towards the support of which neither the proprietors or workers of ironstone mines, as such, contribute one farthing.

3397. You think that that is excessively unjust?—Yes, it is excessively unjust and unfair to the other ratepayers.

3398. Is it a subject of complaint amongst them?—Yes, it is a subject of general complaint.

3399. And has it been so for some time?—Yes, it has been so for some time.

3400. Is there any other reason why you think they should pay; do they cause any increase in the police force?—Yes; I may state, that in the year 1847 two police constables were found to be sufficient for the duty imposed upon them in

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the township of Tunstall; but since that time there has been an increase of 4,000 inhabitants, and now it is found necessary to obtain the services of 12 police constables.

3401. The whole expense of that police falls, does it not, upon the poor-rates?—It does so.

3402. The poor-rate is the basis on which you calculate?—Precisely.

3403. Do you think that the increase in the police force has arisen from the opening of the iron mines?—I do, in a great measure.

3404. Do you attribute half the increase to the iron mines?—More than that; for this reason: that although the town has increased considerably, the local manufacture has not increased. I do not believe that at the present day there is a greater amount of earthenware, which is the staple trade of the district, made therein than there was 10 years since.

3405. The whole of the increase you attribute to the iron mines?—Mainly; and to the altered character of the lower classes of the population.

3406. Have they been the means of introducing many strangers into the district?—Yes.

3407. And has the effect of the introduction of those strangers been to demoralise the district?—Undoubtedly.

3408. The iron mines have brought an increased population?—Yes.

3409. And has the effect of the introduction of that increased population been to demoralise the people who were there before?—The lower class of people.

3410. And has that made it necessary, in your opinion, to increase the police force?—Yes.

3411. And the whole expense of that police force is paid out of the poor-rates?—Yes.

3412. To which poor-rates the ironstone does not contribute a farthing?—That is so.

3413. And that you consider a hardship?—Yes, a very great hardship; and, in addition to that, the court of quarter sessions has insisted that there shall be 1,800*l.* laid out in providing additional accommodation for the police station, and that will come out of the police rates, to which the workers of ironstone will not contribute a farthing.

3414. Have you anything to say as to the highway-rates?—Yes; they are peculiarly oppressive in Tunstall. Under the provisions of the Health of Towns Act of 1848, the turnpike road passing through the town of course has its own gates, a source of income; but from the mines where the ironstone is got, and from the places where it is calcined, the ironstone has to pass a considerable distance on the highway to the canal and to the railway; and without hesitation I say, that the transit of that ironstone injures the roads more and causes greater expense than the whole of the other local traffic of rateable articles put together.

3415. What is your highway-rate altogether?—It is included in the general town-rate. I may state, that in the year 1846, when ironstone was not so fully developed as it is now, the whole of the town-rates were 1*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, and they are now 2*s.* 6*d.*

3416. And that 10*d.* extra you attribute entirely to the ironstone?—Not entirely, but a very large portion of it. I compute that some 250*l.* or 300*l.* a year is lost by the non-assessment of ironstone towards the repairs of the highways.

3417. Do you think that the ratepayers have a very just cause of complaint, inasmuch as the highway-rates have increased very considerably in consequence of the ironstone mines, and inasmuch as the poor-rates are also increased very considerably, whilst the ironstone mines in no way contribute to them?—Yes; they in no way contribute to them. In 1846 the poor-rates were from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*, and now they are 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

3418. Do you think that the introduction of miners to work these mines has increased the value of landed property so much as to enable the owners of it to pay cheerfully these extra rates?—On the contrary, it has depreciated the value of landed property adjoining mines, by causing in many cases such land to be used as spoil bank, which is unproductive of rates.

3419. Has the produce of the landed property increased in value at all in that neighbourhood?—I believe not; if it has altered at all it has decreased in value.

3420. In point of fact, then, as far as the agriculturists are concerned, they have in no way benefited by the mining operations being carried on?—In no way whatever.

3421. But, on the contrary, you think they have been injured; is that so?—Yes, to some extent.

3422. Therefore on very good ground you hold that ironstone mines should be rated?—I do; I consider it a great calamity, with regard to all districts in which extensive mining operations are carried on, that they are not assessed; if they were to pay their fair proportion of the expense of local taxation and local burdens, it might perhaps be tolerated, and in some respects encouraged; but that is not the case.

3423. Is the working of the ironstone likely, do you think, to be a durable thing?—In our township, and in the immediate neighbourhood, I believe it will increase very considerably.

3424. In point of fact, you are opening up further mineral property there, are you not?—Yes.

3425. Colonel *Pennant*.] Has there been any fresh valuation of the property in the parish during the time of which you have spoken?—I believe not.

3426. You have spoken of the population of the town having increased?—Yes.

3427. Has the number of houses increased also?—Yes.

3428. Have those houses been added to the valuation of the parish?—The houses being added to the valuation ought not to cause an increase in the per centage in the pound during the year.

3429. Have there been any improvements made in the town?—There have been some improvements made in the town, but not of such a nature as to cause any great difference in the rateable value of the property; many of the alterations which have been made in the government of the town, and so on, were, I maintain, necessary in consequence of the altered circumstances caused by the opening of the ironstone mines.

3430. But there has been no fresh valuation made?—No, I believe not.

3431. Is it not the fact that some of your shops have been very considerably improved?—In individual cases there has been, no doubt, an increase in the amount of the assessment, but there has not been any general new valuation throughout the parish; if a shop has been enlarged it would be rated at a higher sum.

3432. Although there may not be any actual increase in the valuation of the town, is trade brisker than it would have been but for those improvements?—No; it has been found that the development of the iron trade has had an injurious influence upon the local manufacture of the district, which is earthenware, inasmuch as in many respects they are rivals.

3433. Does not the money spent by the miners tend to benefit the shops by increasing their trade?—To a slight extent no doubt it does, but if, in the absence of mining operations, our manufactures were extended, the benefits that would result from that would be more apparent than they are from the mining operations.

3434. You do not think that there is anything in that to counterbalance the great increase that there has been in the amount of the rates?—No; it was necessary to make an improvement in the local management of the town, and I admit that some expenses were incurred in that way; but those expenses were by no means sufficient to account for the increase; the highway expenses are now treble what they were before the iron trade was established to the extent that it now is.

3435. This increase in the rates includes, does it not, the expenses incurred under the Health of Towns Act?—Yes; that expense has been very trifling; the cost of the Act itself was only 35 *l.*, but there were certain expenses attending it.

3436. You include, I understand you to say, the rates levied for those purposes in the increase you have mentioned?—Yes; I include the whole of the town-rates, and I maintain that the increase of the population ought to cover the whole of those increased expenses without any increase in the rate per pound.

3437. But the increase is not an increase merely of the rate for the poor, but it includes other rates as well, does it not?—It is exclusive of the poor-rate; the poor-rate has increased in the same proportion from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound; in 1855 it was 3 *s.*

3438. Mr. *Foster*.] You have said that the agriculturists, as a body, were injured by the development of the iron trade in your district; will you have the kindness to state the grounds upon which you form that opinion?—I will give you a fact that will illustrate the position I maintain; certain portions of land that were formerly productive for agricultural purposes were sold for

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building purposes. As soon as the clod was broken and the land was sold entirely, it was discovered that only a portion of it could be built upon, in consequence of the mining operations that were taking place adjacent. I know a party who purchased some of the land for the purpose of building; he built on a portion of it, and the other portion remains unbuilt on to this day, in consequence of the mining operations which were going on, on the opposite side of the road.

3439. Is that in consequense of the subsidence of the surface?—Yes; and I know many cases in which portions of land have been thrown out of tillage and rendered spoil banks in consequence of the process of calcining taking place on land adjoining.

3440. That land being, generally speaking, in the hands of the ironmasters or miners?—Yes.

3441. The land which is covered with spoil is, generally speaking, land which is in the occupation of the colliery owner, is it not, and he is responsible for any damage that may be done thereby?—Yes, he is responsible to some extent for damage that may be done thereby, but when it ceases to be productive it ceases to pay rates.

3442. My question had reference rather to the great farming interests of the district; you refer to an isolated case; no doubt during the subsidence of the ground, land bought for building purposes might be affected to some extent; I want to know how a trade bringing to a place a great number of mouths which must be fed, and which must consume a great deal of agricultural produce, can be in any way injurious to the great farming interests of the district?—To the great farming interests of the district it may possibly not be injurious, but it is very injurious to the owners of land immediately adjoining the places where the calcination or raising of ironstone is carried on; and I may say that I know of some properties that have been rendered uninhabitable, in consequence of the settling of the surface; and such property ceases to pay poor-rates, because it is unoccupied.

3443. Do you not think it is obvious that the developement of the iron trade and the introduction of a large population must be eminently beneficial to the agricultural interests of the district?—Not where the population which is so introduced is of the character of those persons who are engaged in the raising of ironstone. There is no doubt of the fact that the introduction of the iron trade has had a very injurious effect upon the pottery trade, which but for the iron trade would have been considerably extended.

3444. I suppose what you mean to say is, that the mining population would be much better away altogether, on the same principle as that on which some individuals have said that it would, in their opinion, be a good thing for England if Manchester could be put for 24 hours under water?—I do not see how that applies at all. There can be no doubt, I think, that it is a misfortune to any town to have an increase in its population which is not beneficial to its interests, or in any way productive.

3445. Is it not the fact that any developement of the trading interests of this country must be indirectly beneficial to the agricultural interests at large?—I certainly do consider it an act of great injustice that a manufacturer of earthenware, who is consuming something like 200 tons of coals a week, should pay the whole sum assessable on coals, on his manufactory, and on all other things connected with his trade, and that at the same time his neighbour, who is receiving a large amount of profit and of income from his mining operations, should be relieved from all obligations of that nature.

3446. The great increase of this town has, I conclude, given a greatly increased value to the land for building purposes?—I think not; perhaps the value of the land for building purposes may not have altered very much; so soon as the land has settled down and is applicable to building purposes, then the price of it is about the same as it was before.

3447. Mr. *Davey*.] You are of opinion that by the increase of the population the town is not permanently benefited?—Yes; but the reverse, in consequence of a great many of them becoming burdens upon the parish, and the others not contributing to the rates.

3448. As soon as the mines cease to work, they will retire, I suppose?—I suppose they will.

3449. Mr. *Williams*.] Do you consider that the iron mines ought to be rated on the amount of royalty or rent towards the maintenance of their poor?—I consider

consider that the iron mines ought to be rated in a somewhat similar proportion to coals? *E. Wedgwood, Esq.* 30 June 1857.

3450. Do you consider it an injustice that the iron mines are not rated, and made to contribute towards the maintenance of their own poor?—Yes.

3451. Do you think that that is an injustice towards the agriculturists?—Yes; I think it is an injustice towards the body of ratepayers in general.

Jovis, 2° die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. G. H. Cavendish.
Mr. Colvile.	

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

George Whieldon, Esq., called in; and Examined.

3452. Mr. *Spooner*.] I BELIEVE you are the proprietor of very considerable mines in the neighbourhood of Coventry, in the county of Warwick?—I am. *G. Whieldon, Esq.* 2 July 1857.

3453. Both coal and ironstone mines?—Yes.

3454. The coal is rated to the poor?—Yes.

3455. But the iron is not?—No.

3456. Can you state at all the principle upon which the assessment upon coals proceeds?—No; the rating upon my property there is put upon land, houses, and mines.

3457. All together?—All together.

3458. Your property, I think, lies in three different parishes?—It does.

3459. In what parishes?—The parishes of Bedworth, Foleshill, and Exhall.

3460. Those coal mines have been partially worked, I believe, for a great many years?—Yes; I should say for upwards of a century.

3461. When you came to them, you found, did you not, that they had been got formerly upon the crop of the mine?—Yes.

3462. That was nearly exhausted, was it not, and you have been obliged to lay out a very large sum of money to go down into the deep of the mine?—Yes.

3463. Have you at present received anything like a return for the capital which you have so spent in sinking down to the deep of the mine?—Nothing like it.

3464. In point of fact, your workings have not returned you any profit for the money you have laid out upon them?—Exactly so.

3465. What is your opinion of the justice or injustice of rating mines generally?—My opinion is, that there is a very great injustice in rating any kind of mines under the system that is now and has been acted upon ever since the Act of the 43d of Elizabeth. That great and eminent judge Lord Ellenborough, in one case that came before him as to the principle of rating property, said all property is liable to be rated to the poor, both real and personal; but at that time of day the income tax was not thought of, and there was not that inquisitorial machinery at work to find out the nature and extent of personal property which has been found out and acted upon since the introduction of the income or property tax, and therefore, in the decision to which Lord Ellenborough came, he took the great distinction between real and personal property, and said that the poor's-rate must be confined to real property. Since that time the property or income tax has been introduced and enforced, and there has been all that inquisitorial machinery introduced and acted upon which was alluded to by the late Lord Ellenborough. Now, what I contend for is this, that if even coal mines, but certainly ironstone mines, are to be rated, all property should be rated. I think that personal property, funded property, money invested on mortgage, and all other property, ought to be rated to the poor,

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poor, as well as to the income or property tax; and I do consider, myself, that it is an act of the greatest injustice to let the poor-rate remain as it is, excluding so large a proportion of property which is rateable now that the inquisitorial machinery has been overlooked, and is acted upon with respect to the income or property tax. I say, then, why not extend the operation of the Act of the 43d of Elizabeth to personal property as well as to real property, and let all parties, whether owners of real property or funded property, or any other description of property, be rated to the support of the poor, as well as to the increase of the income or property tax.

3466. That is your general objection?—Yes.

3467. With regard to the peculiar objection that there may be to the present system, is it not the fact that when mines are rated they pay upon the capital, and not merely upon a rent for that property?—I do decidedly consider that it is a tax upon capital, and not upon interest. I will state my own case, if you please, in illustration of that opinion. My father and my late brother, as you have already suggested, worked these mines 50 or 60 years ago, and they nearly exhausted the coal mines; ironstone was not known to exist at that time in Warwickshire; in fact, I was the person who discovered it; the coal mines at that time were worked upon the saving plan, that is to say, upon the plan of getting them as near the surface as possible. When I came into possession of the property, in the year 1826, I found that the coal in the crop was nearly exhausted, and I found that unless I made large additional purchases, there would be an end of that mineral property in the colliery. It was not convenient to me to lay out altogether my own money, and therefore I was obliged to borrow money on mortgage in order to make purchases so as to enable me to continue the work of the colliery. I have been working that for many years, and it is now nearly exhausted. I have not paid off those mortgages. I would add, that a few years ago I discovered the existence of ironstone, and I have since then been working it. If it had not been for the discovery of that ironstone, I would not have given a flirt of the finger for my mineral property there, for I never could make the colliery pay so as to reimburse me for the purchases I had made, or the capital, I may say, I had invested in the mines. By working them together, I have been enabled to go on, and pay my expenses. I make a little profit by working the two together; but if it had not been for the ironstone, I must have lost a vast deal of money; it is only by working them together that I can make them pay at all. Now, in order to get at this ironstone, the expense is enormous. I have sunk one pit which has cost me nearly 3,000*l.*, and I have got nothing from it yet; it is in the deep of the mines; I shall have to go out an enormous distance, and it will cost me at least 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* more before I can recover any part of the principal. Then, I consider most assuredly that a tax upon the mines, either ironstone or even coal, unless it is extended to other property, would be most unjust. I know by the 43d of Elizabeth we are bound to submit to it, because it is the statute law of the land; but iniquitous as it is that all other property is not brought into contribution to the support of the poor, I say it would be most unjust, in my opinion, to extend or increase that iniquity by rating the ironstone mines, and for the reason given by that great judge, Lord Mansfield. If the Committee will allow me, I will quote the words he used in a case of the Governor and Company for smelting down Lead, &c., *v.* Richardson and others. In that case Lord Mansfield said that lead mines and other mines were not rateable under the 43d of Elizabeth, which only named coal mines, and he added that there was a very good ground for exempting them, as, from the nature of working them, they were liable to more hazard and expenses than coal mines were. All these undertakings, he added, were attended with infinite hazard and expense, and often mines ruined the proprietors. It is not improbable, therefore, that the Legislature meant for this reason, and in order to encourage them to proceed in undertakings of this public utility, to exempt them from any such burthen or imposition. Those were the words of Lord Mansfield; and I do consider that if there is to be an alteration on so important a point as that of the rating of mines to the support of the poor, the principle ought to be extended not only to iron mines, and all kinds of mines, but to personal property of all descriptions; and I think that unless that is done, injustice will be done to those who undertake the great risk, danger, and expense of working mines.

3468. It has been stated before this Committee, that the effect of opening mines is very often to bring a large population into the neighbourhood, and that

that

that population, whether from the ceasing of the working of mines, or by accident and sickness, become burthensome and chargeable to the poor-rate. Is that the case in any parish in which your mines are situated?—It so happens that in my younger days I took a very active part as a magistrate for the three counties of Stafford, Warwick, and Northampton. I am a magistrate of those three counties now; I acted as Chairman of the Board of Guardians in the parish of Foleshill for 15 years; I can therefore speak from experience, I may say, in my official duties. It is now about five or six years since I resigned the Chairmanship; but for 15 years I acted as Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the parish of Foleshill, in the county of Warwick; and I am happy to say that before I gave up the Chairmanship, we reduced the amount of the rates for the support of the poor 75 per cent. With respect to the question that you have put to me with regard to the increase in the population of that locality, I can state that no doubt there has been an increase of that population; and it is most fortunate that there are manufacturing and mining operations going on so extensively as to support them, which they will continue to do, unless there should come a very great reverse of fortune in the iron trade of South Staffordshire, and in the coal trade, and in the failure of the silk trade, for that is the staple manufacture in that part of Warwickshire round about Coventry; there the existence of these mining works and the manufacture of silk are the greatest blessings they can have. The population, no doubt, has increased; but beyond that the proportion of mines for maintaining them has also increased; and I say that that locality is in a much better situation *quoad* the population, and the means of supporting that population, than it was when I first came into possession of my property there.

3469. There are very large manufactories of silk, ribbon, and those kind of manufactures in all those parishes, are there not?—Yes.

3470. And those manufactures bring a large population, do they not?—Yes.

3471. Is it the fact that those trades are very fluctuating, and that there are often many manufacturers out of employment?—Yes; they do fluctuate like, I believe, most others, if not all other manufactories; but I do not think that it is an extreme or a very great fluctuation; there is no doubt but that it does fluctuate, and that when there is a bad state of trade there is a pressure of distress among the poor.

3472. The operations of mining, however, go on steadily?—Yes.

3473. And, therefore, that finds employment very often for part of the population who are thrown out of employment by the fluctuations in manufactures?—Yes, of course; marriages also take place between the miners and the manufacturers, and together they work very well. The children can either work in the factories or in the mines, and they do so. In the mines they get very good wages, about 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a day; in factories they do not get nearly so much; but it is a great thing that the children of the workmen themselves can be employed either in the factories or in the mines, and therefore I should say that there is a great increase in the prosperity, and, I may say, in the happiness of the population of that locality.

3474. Then it is your opinion, is it not, that in your district the value of property by the opening of mines has been increased far more than sufficient to compensate for any additional burthen which may be thrown upon the poor-rates?—Decidedly so.

3475. Do you recollect how much in the pound you pay to the poor-rates in those parishes?—No, I do not. My rates for houses, land, and mines come to about 1,600 *l.* a year, that is to say, I am rated upon that.

3476. How much in the pound do you think you pay?—It varies; sometimes it is 1 *s.*, sometimes 1 *s.* 2 *d.*, and I think (but that has been only very rarely) 10 *d.*

3477. *Chairman.*] What is the name of those coal mines in Coventry that you speak of?—My colliery is called Hawkesbury Colliery; it is about five miles from Coventry.

3478. How long have you been working those collieries now?—Since 1826; about 30 years.

3479. As I understand, your father and brother worked them before you?—Yes.

3480. Did they open them?—I am sure I cannot say whether they commenced the opening of them or not; it is a century ago.

3481. Did they increase largely their workings?—Yes.

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3482. If they did not begin them, at any rate they brought them to greater perfection?—I can only tell you what I stated before, that for 25 years during their propietorship there was not 1 *s.* of profit received or divided; there was not one single dividend, not even the rental of the surface land; it was all swallowed up, so great were the expenses.

3483. Though they had the crop of the coal?—Yes.

3484. They still made no profit?—No.

3485. And yet you went on with it afterwards?—Yes; I introduced an entirely fresh establishment. I understood a little more about it, I believe I may say, than they did; the fact was, that they were independent gentlemen; one was a Mr. Francis Parrott, the high sheriff of Warwickshire in his time, a most highly respectable man; he lived at Hawkesbury Hall. My father was also high sheriff for Staffordshire; they very seldom went near the place, but left it to their agent, and there never was anything worse managed in the world: when I went there, I turned them all out, and introduced a new system altogether.

3486. Though you have been working there long, you have made a large outlay?—Yes.

3487. But still, as far as the coal goes, you have not had returns sufficient to pay yourself?—No; I would not have continued the works if it had not been for my discovery of iron.

3488. When you commenced, were you led to suppose that under your better management you would have made profits up to this time?—Yes.

3489. You say that up to this time you have not been repaid for your outlay, as far as the coal goes?—No.

3490. Did you expect when you began to have been repaid before this?—Yes.

3491. You then turned your attention to another discovery, that of ironstone?—Yes.

3492. That is a good discovery, is it not?—With the coal, working them together; when you have a large establishment, a number of pits, a great deal of machinery, and expenses going on, the great thing then is to raise a large amount of minerals, either singly by itself, or conjointly with others, and then the coal and the ironstone together pay.

3493. How long have you made this discovery of the ironstone?—About 12 years.

3494. And that with the coal is now a profitable concern?—It is paying now.

3495. Did the prior working of these coal beds by your father and brother and by yourself, prior to the discovery of the ironstone, in any way facilitate and make easier to you the raising of the ironstone now?—I could make use of the old pits that were exhausted and worked out with the coal, and then I could deepen them, and get down to the ironstone, so that so far there was an advantage in it.

3496. That outlay has been an advantage to you now as far as that goes, has it not?—Yes; but I am sorry to say that it is nearly over; the ironstone is nearly exhausted where the coal was in the crop of the mine. I have just now been expending, as I have stated, nearly 3,000*l.* in one pit, which is only just commencing to work, and I must spend 2,000*l.* more before it can be brought into full work.

3497. Has your population increased by labourers coming to your coal and iron mines?—There are other collieries as well as my own; there is Mr. Newdigate's for one; there is mine, the Hawkesbury Colliery, and there is another called the Charity Colliery, because they rent the mines from a public charity, and there is another or two. Then I should say that the population is decidedly increased by the silk manufactories, which have also increased very much, as well as by the mining population; but they are much better provided for now than they were when the trade was in a worse state. As I have stated to you, the poor-rates have been reduced 75 per cent.

3498. What was the reason of the poor-rate being so high prior to the reduction?—Poverty was one reason; there was no employment for them, that was another; bad management was another. I may say, it devolved upon me to inquire into the existing abuses under the old poor law. I do not want to sound my own trumpet, but I was complimented very much; public meetings, and so on, were called; and I may say that I was in a great measure the cause of the reduction of the large amount of poor-rates there; we adopted the new poor law, and established a Board of Guardians; we got a regular and correct establishment;

and

and there have been a vast deal better wages provided for the poor, generally speaking, both in the case of miners and manufacturers.

3499. Among the items of improvement, was there a large increase of employment among the poor in your mines?—The employment has increased wonderfully for the poor since I first had anything to do with it; because the silk manufacture has extended very greatly, and is still extending very rapidly; and the mining operations have been also increased.

3500. As you have been chairman of the Board of Guardians, I will ask you this general question: have your poor who have come there come more from the iron and coal mines, or from the manufactories, or from the agricultural districts?—Principally from the silk manufactories; but occasionally from the mines and collieries also.

3501. The larger number of poor relieved prior to this reduction of 75 per cent. came from the silk manufactories, did they?—Yes, I should say that the larger proportion did, because the wages are small there compared with the wages they get in the mines. I would just make this one observation with respect to the mines: for my own part, I consider it a great evil that the poor should get too much money, because they have no provident conduct about them; they will go to the public-houses, and get drunk, ruining their families and neglecting their work. If they get too high wages it is an evil, instead of a blessing to them; but when they get their 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, I should say that that is enough in all conscience for a poor working man to maintain himself and his family with. The wives and children can work in the factories while he is at work in the mines, so that they are, I should think, very well off altogether.

3502. The silk factories, of course, pay towards the poor-rates?—Yes.

3503. Mr. *Spooner*.] On their buildings?—Yes; I was just coming to that; only on their buildings.

3504. *Chairman*.] In raising your ironstone, do you pay anything for your plant or machinery at all?—Yes; it costs a great deal of money.

3505. How are you rated; in what way?—They put it down houses, land, and colliery; so much altogether.

3506. That refers entirely to the coal?—Yes; the colliery includes both the mines and the machinery necessary to work those mines.

3507. Then, as I understand, it is not at all increased in any way by your ironstone, save and except that you require more plant there; that is all; they do not take that into consideration?—No.

3508. Have they rated you much higher since you have discovered this ironstone or not?—No.

3509. Then the fact is this, as I understand it, that were it not for the ironstone, there would be no chance of profit; the ironstone being discovered, it becomes now a matter of profit, and that which causes the profit is not rated; is not that it?—Yes; but I do not conceive that we can calculate upon profit until we have got back our principal that we have laid out in getting our mines. For instance, if I am obliged to pay out of my own pocket, or to borrow on mortgage, we will say, 10,000 *l.* to work these coal and ironstone mines, I cannot call it a profit till I get that 10,000 *l.* back, because it is exhausting.

3510. I only want to have the matter fairly stated; but I understand this to be the fact, that when your father and brother had this property, they invested largely in it, and that there was then no profit; that you then took it up in 1826, and invested largely in it, and that up to very lately you found there was little chance of getting back all your money; but that within a few years you yourself have happily made a discovery of a valuable property there in ironstone?—Yes.

3511. And that now the returns are such each year as to enable you to conclude that it is a good property?—When I have paid off the 20,000*l.* that I borrowed on mortgage, in order to get it, I will tell you that it has yielded me a profit, but not till then.

3512. But it is a good property, is it not?—I do not know what you mean by the word "property;" there is land, and there are mines there; as to the land, that is a mere nothing (comparatively speaking—regard being had to the expenses).

3513. I understood you to say just now that the ironstone was a discovery of your own?—Yes.

3514. But for that discovery you hold that the coal property would have been almost valueless?—Yes.

3515. After a large outlay?—Yes

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3516. At present you do not look upon it in that way?—I live in hopes.

3517. And that is in consequence of the discovery of this iron?—Yes.

3518. Then I think it comes to what I said before, that whilst the property would not have been of value *per se*, it is of value now, inasmuch as it is accompanied by the ironstone; the ironstone makes it valuable, and, therefore, that which is valuable property is not rated?—It is not rated; it cannot be, because the Act of Parliament excludes it. I would make this one observation with respect to buildings and manufactories being rated, not profits; many people I know are getting their 5,000*l.* and 6,000*l.* a year, and what do they pay? not one-fourth part so much as I pay to the support of the poor; because it is merely upon their buildings; and not only is that a glaring fact which shows the injustice of the principle upon which property is now rated to the poor, but I may make this observation, that these manufactories, these large extensive buildings, are always valuable; they may be converted into dwelling-houses in a populous locality when they are done with, and so on; but the mines are all under ground; they are of no value whatever after the mineral has been worked out; there are no houses or factories, or anything of that kind; it all remains under ground, unproductive entirely.

3519. As I understand from you, you think that if coal mines are rated, and more especially if iron mines are rated, every kind of property should be rated?—Decidedly so; every kind of property, real and personal; and I think it will be an act of the greatest injustice, if that principle is not adopted, if any alteration in the law is made.

3520. Do you see any reason why the coal should be rated, and the ironstone not; is not that an anomaly?—I have just quoted the words of Lord Mansfield upon that subject.

3521. Do I understand this to be your opinion, that you think in your district that the coal mines ought to go free; that the iron mines ought to go free; and that as to the poor who have been made poor by having exhausted their strength in your mines, or having met with accidents in your mines, they and their families ought to be maintained out of the poor-rate, that poor-rate being made up by contributions from the silk-factories and the landed interest in the neighbourhood, and the house property?—Do you impute that opinion to me?

3522. No; I ask whether that is your opinion?—No, I say this; that neither coal nor ironstone ought to be rated, unless all kinds of property, both real and personal, are rated; and, as Lord Ellenborough said, all property, real and personal, is rateable under the 43d of Elizabeth; but on account of the difficulty of getting at all personal property without that inquisitorial machinery to which I have already alluded, they would not adopt it, and therefore they confined it to the wording of the Act.

3523. Supposing we cannot get all personal property rated, would you at present exclude coal, and let the poor-rate fall on the other manufacturers?—No; I say that that is within the 43d of Elizabeth; and I say that there is not nearly the expense, or hazard, or difficulty in getting coal that there is in getting ironstone.

3524. You contend that there is much more difficulty, much more hazard, and much more expense in it?—Yes.

3525. I find that in your district the return is larger from ironstone than from coal; therefore you cannot call it expense, can you?—Let me, in answer to your question or observation, just remark, that with respect to coal mines, they vary in thickness from ten yards to perhaps two or three yards. Now, in the case of ironstone, you scarcely ever find it thicker than a foot; five or six inches is the general vein of it, and all the other is rubbish and stuff which we have to get out; and there are frequently interruptions to those thin veins; you frequently get nothing but here and there a ball of ironstone, and so on; the expense is enormous, and the charter we pay upon it per ton is often two or three times as much as for coal.

3526. But notwithstanding that, it is a profitable part at present of your concern, is it not?—It may be considered so; that is, I would not work it without working it with the coal.

3527. If it be more dangerous, does it not send more accidents to the poor-house?—No.

3528. Working ironstone, you say, is more dangerous than working coal; if it be more dangerous, it must of course occasion more accidents?—It requires a great deal more care, and occasions much more expense, but I do not think that in

ironstone

ironstone getting we have had a greater proportion of accidents or injury to human life or limb than we have had in getting the coal; and I should say this, that if there is to be a discouragement for getting these mines, I would say I will shut up; and then we would see whether there would be that market for labour which is so great an advantage to a mining locality. Suppose we were to stop, and two or three more of us were to stop, in consequence of these taxes that are thrown upon us, what would become of that locality; you would throw the men out of employment, and their families must go to the poor-house.

3529. Suppose due consideration were given to what Mr. Spooner calls the corpus question, and we were to deal with coal and with ironstone in the same way, and rate them to the poor, dealing with it each year as an absorption of a part of the fee; do you think that that would be acceptable to the coal and iron owners?—I tell you candidly, and I repeat the opinion I have before expressed, that if the rates are to be continued on coal mines, and they are to be extended to ironstone mines, nothing can do away with the injustice of such a taxation, unless you bring into contribution all property whatever, personal property, funded property, and everything else, that is liable under the 43d of Elizabeth, and it was only started as an objection because of the difficulty of getting at it.

3530. As far as you are concerned, you would admit of no rating of coal or iron under any circumstances, unless all property paid?—I go upon this; that if there is to be an increase of the injustice already existing, I certainly should then call upon the Legislature in any way I could, by meetings and so on, to extend the poor-rates to all kinds of property, personal as well as real; but so long as it may go on as it is under the 43d of Elizabeth, I should not be disposed to interfere.

3531. Colonel *Pennant*.] I understood you to say, that before you took these coalworks into your own hands, there had been parties previously working them for some years?—Yes; my eldest brother was one.

3532. And they were working them at a loss at that time?—Yes.

3533. Were they paying a royalty, or was it their own property?—No; it was their own property.

3534. But they were working them at a loss?—Yes.

3535. And after you took the works into your own management, you incurred a considerable outlay in deepening your mine, did you not?—Yes; and purchasing other mines.

3536. During that time were you rated for those coal mines, though you were carrying them on at a loss?—Yes; and that is another instance of injustice, that the coal mines are rateable, though there is a loss upon them; that has been decided judicially.

3537. Those mines were in the occupation of the owner?—Yes.

3538. And therefore there was no royalty paid?—No.

3539. And yet you were assessed to the poor upon that coal mine?—Yes.

3540. Upon what principle were you then assessed to the poor-rate, there being, as I understand you, a dead loss?—I appealed once against the rate, and got a reduction of between 200 *l.* and 300 *l.* a year of the rateable assessment.

3541. My question was upon what principle were you assessed?—They put it in this way always; you see the property is all my own, and they put it, land, houses, and colliery, altogether.

3542. And you do not know upon what principle it was assessed?—No.

3543. But you appealed, and got a reduction?—Yes; I showed that there was a loss, and therefore it was decided according to the old adage or decision of Lord Ellenborough, that it was rateable, though, of course, not in the same degree as if it was profitable.

3544. Do you think that if you had proved that you were actually working at a loss, you would have been held liable to a rate for that by which you sustained the loss?—Yes; it was laid down by Lord Ellenborough that it still is rateable as a coal mine under the 43d of Elizabeth.

3545. Is it not rateable to the amount it would be worth to let; is not that the rateable value of the coal mine?—I do not think it could have been, for nobody would have rented it, I believe.

3546. If it could not be let, do you think it would have been subject to a rate; could a rental value be put upon that which was working at a loss?—It was done, and I appealed, and got it cut down to a mere nothing, so that it was altogether land, houses, and collieries; it was reduced nearly 300 *l.* a year in the assessment.

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3547. You were asked some questions as to the injustice of rating coal mines?—Yes; I think it is unjust to rate them, unless the other property is rated.

3548. Does that same remark apply to open works; you have had a good deal of experience in mining operations, and have been chairman of the union for some time; does that observation apply equally to open works, such works, for instance, as quarries?—I never had any open works.

3549. Have you never heard of any large open works in the case of quarries, for instance?—No, I never heard of them.

3550. I do not mean ironstone; but I believe there are open works of ironstone, are there not?—I am not aware of any.

3551. Have you never heard of any large open works, in the way of quarries?—I do not think I have.

3552. Do you know that they are rated to the poor?—I beg to observe, that I know nothing at all of any open works; I do not know of any in any county.

3553. Mr. *Spooner.*] You know that there are great open works of slate, and so on, do you not?—I have been in Wales, and in the slate works, and so on, and I have seen open works there, but I know nothing about them.

3554. Colonel *Pennant.*] In Cornwall there are open works which are rated to the poor, are there not?—I do not know anything about that.

3555. But there the body of the estate is also in the process of consumption, is it not?—Here the parish officers, if there is no profit upon the mines, would still rate you for your machinery, engines, pumping engines, drawing-engines, and everything of that kind.

3556. But you cannot say whether the same objection applies to these open works in regard to the consumption of the corpus of the estate; you have never considered whether the objection you hold with regard to coal mines would apply equally to open works?—I have not.

3557. But you are aware that they are liable, according to the present law, to be rated to the poor, are you not?—I am not at all aware whether they are rated, or in what degree they are rated, or anything at all about them.

3558. Do you know of any limestone open quarries anywhere in your neighbourhood?—No.

3559. Do you know Cheadle at all?—Yes.

3560. Do you know of any limestone open quarries there?—There are some; I do not know anything about them.

3561. Do you know whether they are rated to the poor?—I do not.

3562. Having studied the law as to rating so much as you must have done to enable you to form the strong opinions you have expressed, you must know whether they are liable to be rated or not?—I hope you will not impute to me any disposition or inclination to misrepresent; I have confined myself to my own mining concerns in Warwickshire; I know nothing of these open works, either of limestone or anything else.

3563. A great objection has been made to the principle of rating coal mines or ironstone mines, on the ground that the process of working the mines is the process of consuming the estate; and I want to ask whether there is any difference between the process of the consumption of an estate in a mine and that of an open work?—I do not know anything about any open works, whether they are rateable, or whether they are rated or not.

3564. Mr. *Spooner.*] We will assume that there are certain things got by open work, and certain other things got by pits; and that you have shown us the injustice with regard to those got by pits, because it destroys the principal of the property; do you not see that the same injustice exists in the case of quarries, where the same process takes place, only by open work, instead of by pits?—Yes; I do not know anything at all about those open works.

3565. The only question is this, your objection to mines being rated, or one objection is, that you pay upon that which is the destruction of the capital?—Yes.

3566. Does not that same objection exist, whether the minerals are worked by pits, as we work them in Warwickshire, or by open works in the shape of quarries?—I think the principle would be just the same, certainly; but I beg to repeat that my opinion is this: that an act of injustice is done us, the owners of coal mines, because other property, both real and personal, is not brought into the rateability to the poor.

3567. Colonel *Pennant.*] You have considered this question a good deal; how would

would you apportion the rate upon funded property in the different parishes; you suggest that if ironstone mines are to be rated, all funded property should also be rated?—All personal property as well as real property. *G. Whieldon, Esq.* 2 July 1857.

3568. In the case of money in the funds, how would you apportion that in the different parishes?—According to the extent of the property the person has in the parish.

3569. Suppose a person has two properties in two different parts of the kingdom, and a certain sum of money in the funds, how would you apportion that?—If there were three parishes I would divide it into thirds; if there were two parishes I would divide it half and half, according to the extent of the property.

3570. Not with reference to the state or condition of the poor, but merely in proportion to the extent of the property?—Yes.

3571. You complain of the hardships, I think, of a mine being rated before the outlay necessary for the purpose of working that mine had been repaid. The building of a manufactory costs a large sum of money; would you think it unjust that a manufactory should be rated before the outlay for building it has been repaid, or before profits have been made by the works carried on in it?—What I say is this; I will not mention names; but I know two or three manufacturers who employ a vast number of people in their factories, and who pay a mere trifle to the maintenance of the poor; and why? because the assessment is only formed upon their buildings; while the profits may be 5, 6, 8, or 10,000 *l.* a year, which are not touched: though perhaps they bring as many poor and sick persons upon the funds of the parish as we poor miners do, yet they pay a mere nothing. Whilst I am by far the largest ratepayer in the parish, there may be others who get their 8 or 10,000 *l.* a year, and pay scarcely anything; that is not just.

3572. You would not postpone the rating of a manufactory till after the outlay of money in building it had been repaid, would you?—No, I do not say that; if they rated the profits then, I would say nothing about it; but when you find that they are getting their large profits out of their manufactories by the employment of so many of the poor who may become burthensome to the parish, is it just that the means of employing those persons should go untouched, and that they should only be rated to a mere trifle upon their buildings? I think it is an enormity that one cannot help exclaiming against very loudly. You see the manufactories are valuable properties; still they are convertible to other purposes; but where is our property? It is all buried in the earth; there is nothing to show for it. You cannot convert it to any purpose.

3573. *Chairman.*] With regard to the reduction of 75 per cent. upon the poor-rates, that was in a great measure owing, I suppose, to your carrying out the provisions of the new poor-law well?—It was principally by correcting the large abuses which existed under the old system.

3574. The new poor-law enabled you to correct those abuses, by carrying it out well and judiciouly?—Not altogether that; I should say that that, and the increase of the prosperity of the manufacturing interests of that part of the country added to it, gave the means of reducing the rate; and a great blessing it has been to that locality.

Frederick Wragge, Esq., called in; and Examined.

3575. Mr. *Child.*] ARE you the manager of Lord Granville's collieries and ironstone mines, and blast furnaces in North Staffordshire?—I am. *F. Wragge, Esq.*

3576. In what parish are they situated?—In the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent principally.

3577. Do you raise large quantities of ironstone?—We raise about 80,000 tons a year of calcined ironstone.

3578. You are manufacturers of iron, are you not?—Pig iron; we make 50,000 tons a year of pig iron.

3579. Do you get much coal too?—We get a good deal of coal.

3580. Are the people you employ principally people belonging to the neighhood?—No; there has been a considerable immigration of miners into the district in consequence of the opening out of the mines.

3581. Can you state what proportion of the native population you employ?—I cannot state the proportion; but I think it would be small, inasmuch as North Staffordshire is a comparatively new mineral field.

3582. Has that increase of population tended to the building and increase of

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houses, and the increase of the towns?—Most undoubtedly it has stimulated the building of workmen's houses and cottages. In our own case Lord Granville has built houses for his workmen, the rental of which is about 1,300 *l.* a year, and I suppose the annual value of the land upon which they stand would not be 13 *l.* until they were erected.

3583. Are these rated upon the increased rental?—They are rated to the poor upon the increased rental.

3584. Have other people also built?—Other people have also extensively built workmen's houses and cottages, and we have a benefit building society connected with the works, to enable the workmen to build houses for themselves. The agents and officers of the works take shares in the building society, for the purpose of encouraging the men to build; and we find a very active demand for money for the purpose of building; in fact, there is a greater demand for it than the society can meet.

3585. There are other building societies, I suppose, in the neighbourhood?—Yes; there are other building societies in the district.

3586. Has anything been done with regard to education for the children of the miners in that neighbourhood?—Yes; the coal and iron masters are the supporters of education to a very great extent. In connexion with our own colliery Lord Granville has built schools capable of affording accommodation to 250 children, and they are mainly maintained by his Lordship. They are conducted by the most efficient masters and mistresses that can be obtained for the purpose, and the pence received from the children supply but a very small portion of the cost of management.

3587. A good deal has been said about the accidents which arise from misfortunes in these mines. Do not the colliers and others subscribe to the local infirmaries and those sort of things?—Yes; the North Staffordshire Infirmary, which is a very large institution, is, I believe, mainly supported by subscriptions from the workpeople; the colliers and miners are subscribers; the men pay 2 *d.* a week, and the boys under 15 pay 1 *d.* a week; and that subscription entitles them, as a matter of right, to the infirmary, as in-patients or out-patients, as the nature of the case may require.

3588. There are a great number of such subscriptions, are there not, as are called establishment subscriptions?—Yes; and that also entitles them to similar assistance for their wives, children, and step-children, under 14 years of age.

3589. Do you know what your colliery people pay to the infirmary annually?—I have not the exact figures, but it is from 300 *l.* to 400 *l.* a year.

3590. That is from your collieries?—From our works.

3591. There is an association of ironmasters and colliers in North Staffordshire, is there not, by which matters affecting mines and collieries are discussed?—Yes, there is.

3592. What are the principal objects you have in view in those discussions?—We meet for the purpose of personal communication and discussion upon subjects affecting the interests of the trades.

3593. What do you suppose is the aggregate get of the district?—It is nearly 800,000 tons; from 700,000 to 800,000 tons of ironstone.

3594. That is in the district?—Yes, in the district of North Staffordshire.

3595. Is there any uniform system of rating collieries in the district?—I cannot find that there is at all; there seems to me to be the greatest possible confusion of ideas amongst the parish authorities themselves in the various parishes as to what is the principle upon which collieries ought to be rated.

3596. Can you state, from your own knowledge, what system is pursued, or what various systems are pursued, with regard to rating collieries and mines, and works of that description?—I have made a great many inquiries upon the subject. One parish authority in North Staffordshire told me that he took the royalty; another said that he did not take the royalty, but what he thought the royalty ought to be; and from a third I have got the particulars of a more elaborate system which he pursues. He says he takes the get of coal at the average selling price, and from that he makes what he calls the usual deductions for royalty, wear and tear of machinery, labour, engines, superintendence, carts, &c., and a liberal allowance for tenants' profits, and he finds a balance, which he takes as the basis of his assessments.

3597. That is an arbitrary assumption, then, of his own?—Yes; he makes out a balance-sheet, which of course is an imaginary one, and he arrives at an imaginary

ginary balance. It is quite evident that he could not make out such an account as that correctly unless he had as full access to the books of the colliery as the proprietors themselves have.

3598. You think he could not do that without access to the books?—I think not; in point of fact, when he has done it he comes to a result so much like what is arrived at in neighbouring parishes on a different principle, that I think he must begin with the balance, and make his balance-sheet backwards, to answer to it. In fact, I imagine he must settle in his own mind how much a colliery will stand, how far he may go; that he begins with as his datum line, and works out a balance-sheet.

3599. Colonel *Pennant.*] Is that a colliery in which no royalty is paid?—No; it is a colliery in which a royalty is paid.

3600. Mr. *Child.*] Does this system give satisfaction either to the parish authorities, or to those parties who are more particularly interested?—The very reverse of that; the fact that there is no fixed principle for rating collieries, and the uncertainty of the law upon the subject, is a continual source of embarrassment, both to the proprietors of collieries and the parish authorities, and also to the magistrates in case of an appeal, and it leads to continual disputes.

3601. Then I suppose that the whole system is nothing more nor less than a compromise?—It is a compromise, in my opinion, and one of a most unsatisfactory kind, which is being broken continually by one side or the other.

3602. I suppose you are very much in the hands of the surveyor?—Yes; and that is another evil, which I consider a very great one. The power which is left as to the rating of collieries in the hands of the surveyor is almost irresponsible, and I think it is very objectionable. The surveyor can rate a colliery at whatever he likes, and you have no redress, unless you appeal; and if you do appeal, the redress that you may get is most uncertain, because the magistrates have no settled and fixed law upon the subject to guide them, and all they can do is, to inquire what it is usual to do in such cases. I will give the Committee an illustration of the way in which the power which is vested in the hands of the surveyor or assessor of a parish is sometimes used: an illustration from circumstances which have only just taken place. In the district with which I am connected, it has been usual for the coalmasters to make a return to the parish authorities of the quantity and value of the coal which they raise in the year, and those returns are supposed to form the basis of the assessment. Now it is notorious, I believe, in the district, that those returns are not, in all cases, to be depended upon, and I know that the parish authorities themselves do not, in all cases, believe in their correctness. I myself objected to make such a return, on several grounds; in the first place, I said that the selling value of the coal was not the proper measure of assessment to the poor; that the return was of an inquisitorial character, and such as was not required from a manufacturer or trader in any other business; and, lastly, that there was no security that the returns made by all the coalmasters were correct, so that the collieries would be unequally assessed. I therefore declined to make the return, in as civil a way as I could; and I would call the attention of the Committee to what followed upon that. I refer to it merely by way of illustration, to show that the principle of rating coal mines is undefined and uncertain, and that the present system leaves a great and irresponsible power in the hands of the surveyor of the parish. The colliery with which I am connected was rated to the poor at 1,618*l.*, exclusive of land and surface property, which is separately assessed. On my declining to make a return, which the assessor had no legal right to ask for, and which, having regard to the interests of my employer, I considered there were grave objections to my making, the surveyor, in an arbitrary manner and with a stroke of his pen, increased our assessment from 1,618*l.* to 5,636*l.*, so that three weeks ago we were assessed in the books of one parish at 1,618*l.*, and at this moment we are assessed at 5,636*l.* Of course I can appeal, and unless the parish authorities adjust the rate, I shall do so; but what redress I shall get is a matter of the greatest uncertainty, for the reason I have already stated, namely, that the magistrates have no fixed principle to guide them; they say, "What is it usual to do in rating collieries?"

3603. That was done by the surveyor of the parish?—Yes.

3604. Do you know any instance in which a similar increase of assessment has been made, either in the case of collieries or any other property?—I am not aware of any other instance, and in point of fact, except in the case of a colliery, such a

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thing could not be done without creating a scandal, and without attention being called to it; no surveyor would venture to increase by 300*l.* per cent. the assessment on a manufactory, a farm, a dwelling-house, a mill, or any other description of property.

3605. Colonel *Pennant.*] In the case to which you refer, how long before had there been a valuation of the mine?—I believe 12 months before.

3606. Mr. *Child.*] With regard to the general principle of rating mines, do you think that the system which is at present pursued is a fair one?—No, I think it is very unfair.

3607. What do you consider would be a proper principle?—It appears to be generally admitted, I think, that the royalty at present forms the basis of assessment in most cases.

3608. Do you think that that is a fair basis?—I do not think it is a fair basis.

3609. Why not?—I consider that in rating the royalty you are rating the price of the material, and not its annual value; in fact, I object to the term "rating." I believe that at the present time the country is paying a tax on coal at per ton for the benefit of particular parishes. I call it a tax, not a rate; I understand a rate to be levied on the annual value of property; but if a royalty is 8*d.* per ton, it will not be pretended that 8*d.* is the annual value of a ton of coal; it is, in fact, its purchase money. I consider that when the owner of mineral property, or the lord as he is called, grants to any other person the right to get and carry away minerals, he to all intents and purposes sells those minerals, and gives the buyer the rights and privileges which are necessary to take away what he has bought. The price which the buyer pays is called a royalty, and I say that that is the value or price given for the absolute purchase of the mineral. It may be said, in answer to that, that the royalty may be the full value of the mineral at the time it is sold and undeveloped; but that afterwards, when it is opened out and developed, it is worth more; but I do not consider that that is a valid answer, because when the lord of the royalty agreed to the price, he looked forward to the time when it would be opened out, and in fact the price takes effect when it is opened out. I consider the difference in value between the royalty price and the selling price of minerals at the pit's mouth is made up of working expenses, provision for redemption of capital and trader's profits, none of which ought to be rated to the poor under the present system of the poor-law. When you speak of a lease of a mineral property, I think you use an inappropriate term; I object both to the term "rent" as applied to royalties, and to the term "lease," as applied to the grant of minerals; "rent" I understand to mean a consideration paid for the occupation and use of land or premises, and a "lease" I understand to mean an assurance of that occupation and use for a term; but I think that a grant of minerals does not answer to either of those conditions; a royalty of 8*d.*, or whatever it may be a ton, is not a rent for the occupation or use of a ton of coal, but it is the purchase money paid for the thing itself; the purchaser takes it and carries it away, and appropriates it to his own use, either selling or consuming it; I think that in the case of mineral property it is a deed of sale rather than a lease.

3610. The purchase money being paid by instalments?—Yes, the purchase money being paid by instalments.

3611. Do you think that such property should be exempt from all rating?—No; I do not think that; I think that collieries and mining establishments ought to be rated to the poor; but, looking at the present system of rating coal mines to the poor, I object to the principle on which it is likely to be done, if they are simply made rateable to the poor without some provision being made by Parliament with reference to the mode of rating.

3612. You admit that they should not be exempt from rating, but you maintain that the present system is an unfair one; can you state to the Committee what you think would be a fair principle?—That is a question not free from difficulty; but I say, that if the royalty is to be taken as the measure of assessment to the poor, you should not take the royalty itself, which is the principal, but you should take the interest of the royalty.

3613. You would capitalize it, in fact?—If the royalty of a ton of coal or ironstone is 8*d.*, its annual value is not 8*d.*, but 1-20th part of 8*d.*, or 5 per cent.: if the royalty is 1,000*l.* in one year, I say that 50*l.* ought to be rated to the poor; of course it will be objected to that, that the parish in that case would only get one year's rating out of the minerals; but you cannot avoid that, it is in the nature

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of the thing; the minerals would be worth nothing at all unless they were moved; in point of fact they acquire a value by being moved, and as soon as they acquire that value, in the nature of things they go away; but if they were not moved, the parish would not get an assessment upon one year's value of them.

3614. Then you would not capitalize them exactly?—Not at the mine. I do not see how you can continue to rate a thing that is gone.

3615. Is there any other description of property that is similarly situated?—There is other property which is only rated to the poor for a time, and then ceases to be rated to the poor.

3616. What description of property?—Many cases of that kind could be instanced; if a man erected a building for a temporary purpose, it would be rated to the poor as long as it continued to be occupied for that purpose, say for 12 months, and if at the end of that time he sold it to be pulled down and carried away, the parish would not rate the price at which the building was sold before it went away; they would only have had an assessment of one year's value upon that property; or if a gentleman determined to pull down his house and leave the country, they would not rate the sum at which he sold the building materials before they were taken away; the parish would lose by the annual value of that property, which was pulled down or removed, or taken away.

3617. You think that the parish could not claim a permanent lien upon such property?—I do not think that the parish ought to have a permanent lien on any kind of property, nor a lien upon its gross value, although of course in the case of land, that is in the nature of things permanent.

3618. Do you see any way of further improving the system so as not to exempt them, but to put them on a fair principle; how would you put the erection and plant, and so on?—All erections and surface property, I think, ought to be rated; and, in point of fact, they are rated now; only in the case of collieries the parish authorities have got such a pull in the royalty that they neglect the assessment of the surface property, which ought to be carefully valued and assessed, there is no doubt; but still there is a danger connected with that question; and if there is any legislation upon the subject, care, I think, ought to be taken that in assessing surface property they are not allowed to put upon that the value of the minerals, for that would be only an indirect way of assessing the coal or the ironstone. Engines and engine-houses of course are assessable to the poor, but I think they should not be assessed with reference to the quantity or value of the coal or ironssone which is raised, but they should be assessed as an engine-house and engine of so many horse power, which would be applicable to any purpose. I believe that in the case of mills, for instance, in Manchester, if additional steam-engines are put down to a mill, they are rated; I believe it is 10*s.* per horse power per annum.

3619. You have a number of furnaces, have you not, at Lord Granville's?—We have eight blast furnaces.

3620. They are rated as erections, are they not?—Yes, they are rated.

3621. At what rate; do you know?—No, I do not know at how much per furnace they are rated, nor do I know exactly how it is got at; we get a very loose account of it. I have here the assessment, of which I complain (*referring to a Paper*); "Furnaces, building, machinery, &c., 286*l.* rateable." That is after it is reduced by the usual allowance they make; that is four furnaces. Then four other furnaces are called "Ironworks, &c." (there is an *et cetera* after each item; it may include a great deal or a very little) "187*l.*:" those four are smaller furnaces; not worth so much money, perhaps.

3622. Are railways connected with those works rated at all?—I do not know how they are rated. Yes, "colliery, railway, machinery, wharf, &c."; that is the great item of which I complain. In a former rate-book the word "railway" was inserted somewhere else, after some other item.

3623. There is a special railway, is there not, from the main line of the North Staffordshire railway up to your works?—There is a short branch.

3624. That is for no other purpose than for the purpose of Lord Granville's works, I believe?—Lord Granville is the lessee of it.

3625. Is that rated?—It is rated in some of these items, I believe; but there is no special item for it.

3626. Is that comprised in the assessment to which you have just referred?—That I do not know; I cannot say.

3627. Do you know how many hands you employ at your works?—I can tell you the gross number of hands employed, but that includes those who are

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employed in the ironworks, the blast furnaces, the colliery, and the ironstone mining, and a large number of general labourers; in fact, we are farmers to some extent; we hold a good deal of land altogether. The gross number of men and boys would be from 1,400 to 1,500.

3628. Do you know what was the gross amount of your rates to the poor last year?—Before this great assessment we paid between 400 *l.* and 500 *l.*

3629. In the year?—In the year.

3630. Do you know any earthenware or other manufactory which employs as great a number of men?—Perhaps not quite so great a number; there are manufactories of earthenware who employ a very large number of hands.

3631. Do you know how they are rated?—They are not rated nearly so heavily in proportion to the number of hands employed; but I believe that evidence from our district will be given to the Committee upon that subject.

3632. You know nothing about it yourself?—No, I am not prepared to speak upon it.

3633. *Chairman.*] Yours is, comparatively speaking, a new district, is it not?—It is.

3634. Do the lessors, in making their grants (or, as you would term it, sales), proceed upon any system generally, or do the royalties vary?—They vary in the principle upon which the royalty it calculated.

3635. So far as your experience goes, to what extent should you say they vary; how much per ton. Yours is 8*d.* per ton, I understand?—No; I merely took 8*d.* per ton as a very general average.

3636. What is your royalty?—It is not at per ton; it is at a proportion of the price; but royalties are granted in a great many different ways; some royalties are granted at per ton, others at a proportion of the selling value on the pit's bank, and others again at per acre; a gross sum, 1,000 *l.* per acre we will say for argument's sake, for the minerals; that is not a rent at any rate.

3637. How is that acre rated to the poor?—The system upon which the authorities of different parishes act appears to be very various, but I should say, speaking generally, that they get at the selling price of the coal as nearly as they can reckon.

3638. And at the quantity delivered?—Yes.

3639. Who are the your grantors?—The Duchy of Lancaster is one, and the representatives of a Mr. Stannier.

3640. But principally the Duchy of Lancaster?—Yes, principally.

3641. Do those two parties differ in their royalties?—Entirely.

3642. How do the Duchy of Lancaster grant?—At a certain proportion of the selling value.

3643. What does that make it?—One-twelfth of the selling value.

3644. What is the other?—The other is at a price per acre of such a thickness.

3645. How do the parties who rate you get at that; it must be sheer guess, must it not?—It must be, unless you make a return, and I have stated my reasons for not doing that.

3646. Now they have raised you from 1,618 *l.* to 5,685 *l.*?—Yes.

3647. If you appeal, shall you be obliged to go into all your working, or will the magistrates decide the question without going into any minute inquiry; have you had any appeal before?—No; not in the case of a colliery; but I believe it is as uncertain as possible what view the magistrates will take of it; they may come to a decision without going into the details; they could not say, "Produce your books, and let us see what profit you are making;" but they might say, "If you will not do that, the rate must stand;" which is practically the same thing.

3648. Then at present, everything is in confusion and disorder, as far as rating goes?—Certainly.

3649. And you think that something ought to be done to put it on a fair basis?—I do.

3650. I presume that some of these grants are matters of speculation; they do not all succeed?—No, they do not all succeed.

3651. Before you know whether they will succeed or not you get your grant from the lessor?—Yes.

3652. Therefore as it is a matter of speculation, the royalty of course is much less than it would be if it were a matter of certainty?—Yes.

3653. Taking the average of speculations, should you say that half of them succeed?—Are you speaking of coal?

3654. Yes, coal and ironstone in your neighbourhood?—I should say that half do succeed. When I say half, I am referring to the number of pits.

3655. It takes a long time, does it not, after you begin working, to develope the coal?—Yes.

3656. They do not rate you to the poor's-rate at once, do they, because you have no produce to rate upon?—I should imagine that they do not.

3657. Then you introduce a population even in the case of coal mines very frequently at a time when they do not pay to the poor's-rates?—A very small number of people, comparatively, are employed in pits until they begin to get coal. As soon as there is room for a number of people to work, then they begin to get coal.

3658. But you must have a pretty fair staff for two or three years before you get coal, must you not?—It bears a very small proportion indeed to the number of people employed when you do get coal, and that sort of work is done by residents in most cases. The sinkers are natives; we do not import them.

3659. As it requires a great number of persons to work these coal mines, and as a large population is brought there, do you not think it would be rather a hardship upon the other rate-payers that you should simply capitalize the royalties?—I do not think so; in the first place, that population itself pays rates; and in the next place, it is not the law, and I do not apprehend it is proposed to make it the law, that the number of hands you employ shall be the measure of your assessment.

3660. In your district, have the agriculturists and the other rate-payers benefited much by the introduction of an increased population; has it increased the value of their property?—It has increased the population, and increased the value of the property; ours is not an agricultural district, it is a manufacturing district.

3661. Before your mines were there, was the population very large?—It has been a populous district for many years.

3662. Has it been considerably increased by the mining population?—Yes.

3663. Have you any ironstone mines as well as coal mines?—Yes.

3664. What are the relative values of the ironstone mine and the coal?—A ton of ironstone is worth at least twice the amount that a ton of coal is worth.

3665. Take the relative properties, which is the most valuable of the two, the ironstone or the coal, in your district?—The ironstone.

3666. Take the working of the two minerals, which is the most dangerous, the ironstone or the coal?—The coal.

3667. The coal is more dangerous than the ironstone?—Yes.

3668. Take the number of parties employed; which employ the most miners, the ironstone or the coal?—Do you mean with reference to the number of tons raised?

3669. The number of parties employed; are there more parties in that district employed in raising coal, or are more employed in raising iron?—In that district I should say there are more employed in raising the ironstone.

3670. Then, if I understand you rightly, the ironstone in that district is the more profitable of the two?—Yes.

3671. It employs more hands?—Yes.

3672. Probably although the coal is rather more dangerous to work than the stone, they each throw about an equal number of poor upon the poor's-rate?—I would not give an opinion upon that point.

3673. The ironstone is not rated in any way?—No, the ironstone is not; all erections, I believe, are rated, or are rateable.

3674. What kind of erections are ratable there?—Engine-houses and engines.

3675. Do you mean that they rate the engines that pump from the mines?—Yes; I should, if I were the surveyor of the parish.

3676. But do they?—I do not know; I am not able to say whether they do or not; in some cases, I have been told by the proprietors of ironstone mines that they do.

3677. But you have ironstone mines, have you not?—Yes.

3678. Do you pay any rates for them?—We cannot tell; they put down the amount at so much for our concern.

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3679. These et ceteras puzzle you?—Yes.

3680. You do not know what they include?—No, we do not know what they include.

3681. What other manufactories have you besides?—Principally earthenware; there is a large trade in earthenware; in fact, we are the Staffordshire potteries.

3682. How are they rated; do you know?—They are rated upon the value of the building which they occupy.

3683. Do you know whether or not they have any differences with the surveyors?—I never heard that they had; and I should think, from what I have seen of the rate-book, that they have no ground of complaint; they are very moderately assessed.

3684. They look upon you, as new comers, to be mulcted?—To be plucked, I suppose.

3685. Do you see any reason why, if coal is to be rated, the ironstone should be exempt?—It would be no greater injustice to rate ironstone than it is to rate coal.

3686. Then, as far as rating coal goes, you do not object to that; you only object to the principle upon which it is rated?—Yes.

3687. You hold that the lessor is not, in fact, the lessor, but that he is the seller?—Exactly.

3688. And that what is paid to him is not a royalty, but simply the purchase-money on the sale?—Yes, the price.

3689. Would you apply that to the potteries in the same way; you do not think they are over assessed, do you; you think they are rightly assessed?—I think they are rightly assessed; I have looked at the rate-book with reference to large pottery works which I know, and am in the habit of passing. I see what they are put down at, and it seems to me to be a moderate rent for such a building.

3690. Colonel *Pennant*.] What is the practice in your neighbourhood with regard to those adjuncts, if I may so call them, to a coal work, the furnaces and the tramroads; are they rated to the poor separately, from the actual coal mine?—Yes; they are rated separately.

3691. Are they estimated by the landlord or by the occupier of the mine?—You cannot lay down any rule as to that; there are cases in North Staffordshire where the owner of a mineral property has built furnaces, and there are cases in which the lessee of mineral property has erected furnaces.

3692. There are tramroads also; are those not connected with the mine?—Yes.

3693. Are those constructed in some cases by the landlord, or are they constructed usually by the occupier?—They are constructed, usually, I should say, by the man who takes the mines; the lessee, as you would call it.

3694. And they are rated separately?—Yes.

3695. Supposing the royalty is to be taken as rent, is not that royalty an index of the rent which it is worth while for the occupier to pay to the landlord, including all these other advantages?—I think not; I do not see any connexion between the royalty and the ratable value of the property.

3696. Supposing it is worth a man's while in occupying a mine with the advantages of a furnace and a tramroad, constructed by the occupier to give a certain royalty upon the produce of that mine, is it not the case that when you rate that furnace and tramroad separately, you are in fact rating him twice over, if you rate him on the royalty also?—Yes; that is the case.

3697. Because he would give, would he not, that royalty upon the understanding that he was to have those advantages of the railroad and the furnace which had been constructed for him?—If there were such an understanding.

3698. But that would be the understanding, would it not?—It might or might not be.

3699. Mr. *Ridley*.] I think you have told us that the royalty paid to the Duchy of Lancaster is one-twelfth of the selling value of the coal?—Yes.

3700. Do you think that, supposing the rating were extended to mines, other than coal mines, that would be a fair principle upon which to assess to the poor-rates, instead of assessing upon the whole royalty, assessing upon one-twelfth of the selling value of the mineral produced?—No; I do not think that that would be right;

right; in fact, the one-twelfth of the selling value is the royalty; it is the rating of that royalty that I complain of.

3701. Would it not be assessing it to the poor-rate at a certain value, according to the profit of the thing produced?—No; I do not see that.

3702. Would it not be varying the rate according to the produce, and the advantage or profit derived from that produce?—If you will allow me, I will illustrate the subject in this way: Lord Granville holds one lease from the Duchy, at a royalty of one-twelfth of the selling value; he holds another lease at a certain gross sum per acre of coal, a foot thick; when it is worked out into tons, the two royalties come to about the same amount per ton to the Duchy and per ton to the other lessee; they have been arrived at upon totally different principles, but the value per ton has been considered the same in both cases, and you get at very much the same result.

3703. You were asked some questions about the rating of a coal mine before it arrived at that state in which the produce of the coal was brought up; when you proceed to open a coal mine, must there not be a certain amount of machinery on the surface which is used in the opening of that coal mine?—Yes.

3704. Is that rated at once, as soon as it is put up?—I should consider that it is rateable; I do not know whether they rate it; I should rate it if I were the surveyor; it is a property having an intrinsic value which they have a right to rate.

3705. I think, then, your opinion is this; that supposing the iron mines and other mines are to be rated, there should be in that case some rules and principles laid down, which should define more accurately the principle of rating of coal mines, and that coal mines and iron and other minerals should be rated upon the same principle?—Exactly.

3706. But that if anything is done, some more distinct principle should be laid down as regards the rating of coal mines?—Yes.

3707. Upon whom, in your opinion, in case of rating iron and other mines, do you think the rate ought to fall; who would you make the responsible person to pay that rate?—The man who is now called the lessee. But I say that if you were to make ironstone rateable to the poor upon the same principle that coal is now rated to the poor, you would in point of fact be taxing every ton of iron produced in this country, which tax must fall upon the consumers and shippers of that iron.

3708. Mr. *Child.*] Are you subject to any rates besides poor and highway rates, with respect to your collieries?—Yes.

3709. What is the nature of those rates?—Board of Health rates, they are called.

3710. Mr. *Spooner.*] That is under a local Act, I presume?—Yes.

3711. Mr. *Child.*] And for what purposes?—For improvements.

3712. Are those improvements contiguous to your property, or not?—They may or may not be; they may be at the extremity of the parish.

3713. These rates are based upon the poor-rate, are they not?—Yes.

3714. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Is your county rate assessed upon the same principle as the poor-rate?—I am not sure, but I think the county rate is paid from the poor-rates. I am not sure about that.

3715. Then your iron mines are not rated to the county rate?—They are not rated to the county rate.

3716. Mr. *Spooner.*] The improvement rate you speak of is under a local Act, is it not?—Yes; our colliery is in two parishes; it is only in one parish that the Board of Health Act is in operation; in the other we are expecting it.

3717. Mr. *Cavendish.*] You have a district police rate in Staffordshire for the different districts, have you not; one for the agricultural district, one for the Potteries, and one for the mining district?—We have not a rate called a police rate. I do not know how the police are paid, I am sure.

3718. Mr. *Spooner.*] You state that your improvement rate is under a local Act; you have a separate rate altogether, and make a separate valuation under that Act, I suppose; it has no reference to the poor-rate, has it?—I think they take the poor-rate as the basis.

3719. Where the mine is paid for by the acre, your royalty is paid so much an acre, I suppose, upon the quantity got in the year?—Yes.

3720. And when they make their assessment, do they assess upon the same measure?—They do not measure it; we pay the lord by measurement.

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3721. How do they get at the quantity?—It is impossible to say; I do not believe they know themselves; they get as much as they can out of the collieries in the district.

3722. Comparing what you pay to the lord with what you pay to the poor-rate, do you believe that the quantities about tally; do you believe that you pay for as much coal to the poor-rate as royalty to the lord, or more, or less?—I should think about the same.

3723. They get some information that guides them as to what you are getting?—Yes; it is very well understood how many tons an acre of coal of such a thickness will produce; that is an easy calculation.

3724. But that will not tell how many tons you have got, will it?—They go on increasing the quantity till they tread on your toes, and you cry out.

3725. And then you appeal?—Yes.

3726. Is the value of rateable property increased in the parish by the number of new houses and new buildings which are erected for the purposes of the mines?—Undoubtedly.

3727. And do you think that that increased value added to the rate is a full and fair recompense for any increase of pauperism that the mines may bring you?—I do; but at the same time I admit that they ought to be rated; I think that mining establishments ought themselves to be rated in addition to the houses the men live in, but not upon the present unjust principle.

3728. You do not object to their being rated upon a proper principle?—No.

3729. Many statements have been made before the Committee to the effect that the increase of population brought by opening mines in a parish throws an additional burthen upon that parish; the purport of my question is to ascertain whether it does not produce an increase in the rateable value of property in the parish, which in a great degree, if not altogether, compensates for the increased charge to the poor?—Undoubtedly.

3730. *Chairman.*] Do I understand from you, that although you fancy that besides the unfair burden which you consider is cast upon the owners of coal mines, an additional burden is cast upon them by their being rated for their plant also, inasmuch as that plant is a necessary part of their working?—Yes; to rate the plant, in addition to the royalty, is adding a greater injustice to the first.

3731. You deal with the mineral as a sort of under-ground farm?—No.

3732. Of which a part of the fee is annually sold?—No; it is not a farm.

3733. You draw a distinction between a farm that is reproducing, and mineral that is not?—I do not like the term "farm," because it is not productive; it produces nothing. I look on minerals as a certain quantity of moveable property which you go and take; they become chattels.

3734. It is a part of the fee abstracted each year?—Yes.

3735. Therefore you capitalise that fee each year; you think that it ought to be capitalised and rated in that way?—But I would not capitalise it, and allow the parish to retain an interest in that capital.

3736. You would do this: you would each year, if it produced 1,000*l.*, make it rateable on 50*l.*?—Yes.

3737. And when the property is worked out, you would allow the capital, as it were, to disappear as far as the rate is concerned?—Yes; in addition to rating the interest on the royalty, I would rate all the surface property.

3738. Colonel *Pennant.*] Would you apply that principle to all works of that description; I mean open works, such as quarries as well as mining works?—Yes, I would. I think that the injustice of rating open work, mines or quarries upon the royalty, is as great as that of mines under ground. I do not see any difference.

3739. *Chairman.*] Clay, slate, or limestone, or anything?—Yes.

3740. You hold that it is a rate, and you would so deal with it?—Yes, that is my view of it.

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3741. Mr. *Child.*] DO you reside at Newcastle, in Staffordshire?—Yes.

3742. Are you a coal and iron master?—Yes.

3743. Are you Chairman of the North Staffordshire Coal and Ironmasters' Association?—Yes, for the present year.

3744. Have

3744. Have you been long engaged in working iron and coal mines?—All my engagements have been in it since I have been able to do anything at all.

3745. Are you acquainted with the mode of assessing coal mines to the poor-rate?—Yes; I understand them to be assessed upon the return made by the colliery proprietor to the overseers, giving the number of tons, and the amount in value of the coal immediately it comes to the surface.

3746. When raised?—Yes, when raised; and from that they approximate to something which is generally about the mine rent.

3747. Do you consider the system a fair one?—No, I consider it is very unfair.

3748. Will you state, if you please, your reasons for so considering it?—My reason is, that the mine rent is a proportion of the value of the property, and it thereby depreciates the property by the amount of the mine rent paid annually.

3749. In point of fact, it is the purchase-money for part of the fee of the estate?—Yes; many of our undertakings in North Staffordshire are treated as purchases, or as the absolute sale of mines.

3750. The purchase-money being payable by instalments?—Yes, payable by instalments of so much a year.

3751. Allowing a certain number of years for the exhaustion of the mines?—Yes.

3752. In those cases how would such a colliery be assessed to the poor?—Upon the return; and that return is an approximation, as nearly as they can come to it, to the mine rent paid.

3753. Where there is a price paid down as the purchase-money for the fee-simple of a coal estate, there can be no royalty, can there?—No; but of course the colliery proprietor would make his return in the usual way, of so many tons got; he would give the selling price upon the pit bank, or upon the surface when raised, as so much, and then the overseers would make a division; I cannot exactly tell how they would do it, but they generally approximate as near to the mine rent as possible; in fact, I know that in the parish I am in, they put 6*d.* a ton upon it.

3754. Has there been any Act of Parliament passed with regard to the leasing of settled estates which has reference to such a system?—Yes, I understand that in the last Session an Act of Parliament was passed to facilitate the leasing and sale of settled estates, whereby it was provided that three-fourths of the mine rent should be capitalised, one-fourth going to the proprietor for the time being.

3755. And the rest was to be funded?—Three-fourths were to be funded or capitalised.

3756. Mr. *Spooner*.] Is that a local Act?—No; it is a general Act of Parliament.

3757. Mr. *Child*.] What is the occupation of the principal part of the labouring population of North Staffordshire?—The greater number of them are employed in the earthenware manufactories, and of course a very great number are employed also in the mines, and in making and manufacturing iron, but the greater number of them are employed in the earthenware manufactories.

3758. Have you had occasion to compare the relative proportions, or to make any analysis of their occupations?—I have had occasion to make such an analysis.

3759. Will you state, if you please, the result of that analysis?—I find that in proportion to the number of hands employed, the colliery pays in the proportion of ten to one.

3760. Is that in proportion to the manufactories?—Yes, in proportion to the rating of manufactories, I find that the collieries pay ten times as much as the earthenware manufactories, in proportion to the number of hands employed.

3761. Would that also have reference to the profits made?—Perhaps there may be some little exaggeration in saying it is ten times as much, but it is very considerably greater, and I should say very likely it might approximate to that.

3762. Can you give the Committee any instances of the kind that are within your own knowledge?—The North Staffordshire mining district consists of Wolstanton, Burslem, and Stoke-upon-Trent. I can give you an instance of an earthenware manufactory and a colliery, both of which belong to the same proprietor; in the earthenware manufactory there are 520 hands employed, and the rateable value of the manufactory is 408 *l.*; in the colliery the rateable value is 1,250 *l.*, and the number of hands employed is 180.

3763. Are miners generally a provident or an improvident class of men in your neighbourhood?

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neighbourhood?—I should say that the miners, particularly where they are an isolated population, are generally very provident.

3764. Are they more or less liable to be burthensome to the poor-rates, in the parishes in which they are located?—I believe not.

3765. For what reason?—They are generally supported, in case of illness or accident, by field or ground clubs, or by other clubs in which there is always a provision for medical attendance; or where there is no such provision, they contribute to the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

3766. Are they much disposed to invest money in building societies, such as are common in your neighbourhood?—Yes; in my immediate neighbourhood I should say there are at least 200 houses which have been built by means of building societies, which are generally supported by miners; in fact, the part of the country in which my mines are situated is solely a mining district.

3767. How many hands do you employ?—Not above 800 or 900; that is, in mining.

3768. How many of those do you suppose are possessed of property?—I should think that one-fourth of that number of men are possessed of property to a certain extent. I can give you an instance of it: at the works in which I was concerned in the year 1847, out of not more than 800 men who were employed in and about collieries and ironstone pits, 250 voted as freeholders at the general election.

3769. You give that as an instance showing that the men are of provident habits?—Yes, to show that they are men who save money.

3770. Do you think that that rule obtains at the present time?—Yes; I have no doubt that the number of freeholders has very much increased since that time, in that same place.

3771. You have stated, I think, that the mining operations in your district are principally confined to three parishes, Stoke-upon-Trent, Burslem, and Wolstanton?—Yes.

3772. What should you take to be the average of the poor-rate for the district for the last six years?—Two and eleven-pence in the pound. The average rate for Burslem is 3*s.* 6*d.*, for Wolstanton 2*s.* 6*d.*, and for Stoke 2*s.* 9½*d.*

3773. Supposing iron mines were subject to the same rate, what would the rating be, do you suppose, for every ton of ironstone?—It would be equal to 2¼*d.*, estimated in the same way that the rates in coal mines are estimated at the present time; that is, the rate to the poor alone would be 2¼*d.*

3774. What other rates have you?—The Board of Health rate in Burslem and the Board of Health rate in Tunstall, each of which is 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, which is nearly equivalent to the poor's rate. The poor's rate in Burslem is 3*s.* 6*d.*, and the Board of Health rate is 2*s.* 6*d.* In Wolstanton 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the Board of Health rate in Tunstall is 2*s.* 6*d.*; therefore, they are equal there.

3775. What would that be upon the average for every ton of ironstone?—It would make 4*d.*

3776. Would that be upon the ironstone in its raw state, or calcined?—In its calcined state.

3777. What is the average selling price?—The average selling price on the pit bank, I should say, would be about 12*s.*; where the pit is immediately contiguous to a railway or canal, it can be put into the boat or on to the railway at less than 2*s.* of course, but a good deal of it has to pay a cartage of 2*s.* a ton, and therefore though the selling price in that case would be about 14*s.*, it would not be more than 12*s.* at the pit bank.

3778. And the rates would be about 4*d.*?—Yes; about 4*d.*

3779. Do you think that ironstone should be exempt from the poor's rate, if a fair principle of rating it could be devised?—No; I do not see any reason why it should be exempt from the rate, supposing the mode of assessment adopted with regard to it were an equitable one.

3780. Is the principle of rating coal mines in North Staffordshire uniform at all?—I think the mode of rating them is pretty uniform; it varies a little. In Stoke-upon-Trent, the rate, I believe, averages about 9*d.* a ton, and in Burslem and Wolstanton it is about 6*d.*

3781. Do you know any instances in which it is rated at what may be called its profit value at all?—I should say so; I should say that 9*d.* a ton, where mines are not contiguous to a convenient mode of transit to the place of consumption, is equal to the profit.

3782. The

3782. The rate, then, is based on profit?—Yes; I should think that many parties in a good many different situations would be very glad to realize a profit of 9*d.* a ton, and would consider it a very handsome profit.

3783. Do you think that the principle of rating should be extended beyond what it is now?—I do not think it should be extended to ironstone mines, unless some means were devised for adjusting it equitably with reference to coal mines.

3784. Do you think that the area of rating should be extended generally to other descriptions of property?—I think that if coal mines ought to be rated, all other descriptions of property should be rated also; I think that stock in trade and property of every description should be rated. A man who possesses coal in the earth is, I think, in the same position as a shopkeeper who possesses broadcloth upon his shelves: it is his stock in trade.

3785. Do you think that the collieries derive any benefit from the Board of Health rate, and from that class of rates?—I should say not; I cannot see that they do.

3786. Can you state what proportion the mining paupers in the districts with which you are acquainted bear to the other paupers?—I find they bear about an average proportion, according to the information which I have obtained from the parochial authorities.

3787. What proportion do you consider them to bear; have you any data?—Yes, I have; I find that there has been an attempted separation of the expense of maintaining the paupers who are ironstone and coal miners and other paupers, and that, without taking into consideration the rating of the houses in which the colliers and other miners live, and the houses of the proprietors and other holdings; the coals alone provide for the poor colliers and other miners within one-seventh; that is, that the coal-rate provides for the poor to the extent of six-sevenths of the amount actually given.

3788. Is the plant connected with the collieries rated at all?—I believe it is not; outhouses and workshops, I believe, are rated, but I think that the plant and engines are not rated.

3789. Are furnaces rated?—Yes, furnaces are rated.

3790. Do you know at what rate?—I believe at about 50*l.* each furnace in our district; I am not quite certain, but I believe that is about it.

3791. Do any of the collieries with which you are connected contribute to the North Staffordshire Infirmary?—Yes.

3792. Do all your collieries do so?—Yes; they contribute about 2*s.* per head per annum for the men, and for the boys about 1*s.*

3793. Do you know what the aggregate amount that they pay is?—No, I cannot exactly give you the aggregate amount; it is a voluntary contribution; it is not levied upon them; we make a contribution annually, and the men who like to subscribe do so. I should say that that is about the average of what is given.

3794. Is it compulsory upon the men?—By no means.

3795. Would a man be discharged if he did not pay?—Certainly not; it is voluntary with him what he will subscribe.

3796. *Chairman.*] If he does not subscribe, of course he has no benefit from it?—We should not deny him the benefit. The proprietors subscribe themselves; I subscribe to it; I do not know that I ever refused an applicant who came to me, whether he was a workman or not, provided I thought him a proper subject.

3797. Yours is a new mineral district, is it not?—No.

3798 Is it of old standing?—Yes.

3799. Is your ironstone mixed a good deal with your coal there?—Yes.

3800. Which is the most profitable, the coal or the iron?—I cannot exactly say; I should say that the ironstone is, at the present moment, quite as profitable to get as the coal; a few years ago it was not so; the price of coal is more stationary; the ironstone varies more.

3801. Taking your district, is the ironstone as profitable as the coal?—I think that the ironstone workings have not been profitable until a late period.

3802. But they are profitable now, are they not?—I think they are.

3803. With regard to the miners who are employed, what are the relative numbers employed in the coal and iron mines?—I should say that more are employed in the coal than in the iron.

3804. Many more?—In the proportion, I should say, of three to four.

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3805. Which is most dangerous in your neighbourhood?—I should think that the coal mining is the most dangerous.

3806. Which are the more provident men of the two, the coal miners or the ironstone miners?—I think they are equally provident.

3807. Do they both subscribe to the infirmary?—Yes.

3808. The one class as much as the other?—Yes; contributions are solicited from all.

3809. Have you any railways or canals near you?—Yes.

3810. I suppose that as your profit upon the ironstone depends a good deal upon the means of transit that you have, and upon the expense of carriage, and so on, your profits would be much less than they are unless you had these railways?—Yes.

3811. Mr. *Child.*] You have a special railway, have you not?—Yes, from the North Staffordshire we have a direct line up, so that we run the North Staffordshire trains up to the centre of the works.

3812. *Chairman.*] But the railways in your district are all rated, are they not?—I believe so; I cannot speak to that positively, but I believe they are.

3813. The railways contribute very considerably, do they not, to the profit of the ironmaster?—Of course.

3814. They are rated?—Yes.

3815. And the ironstone is not rated?—The ironstone is not rated.

3816. Can you see any reason why the railways should be rated and the ironstone should not?—I do not see any reason why the ironstone should not be rated, provided the principle of rating is an equitable one.

3817. You agree to the necessity of rating the ironstone as well as the coal if it can be done on equitable terms?—Yes; I think so.

3818. You think it a great anomaly, do you not, that the one should be rated while the other is not?—Yes, I do.

3819. How would you rate coal on a different system from that on which it is rated now?—I think that it ought to be rated on the realised profit, namely, on the mine rent.

3820. Not on the profit of the working, but a per-centage on the royalty—Yes, a per-centage on the royalty.

3821. What per-centage would you say?—I should think that five per cent. would be extravagant, because property generally will not realise five per cent.

3822. You would capitalise it, and then take five per cent.?—Yes.

3823. You have spoken of the poor from the potteries and from the mines; do you think that the miners, as a body, are more careful than the men who are engaged in the potteries?—I believe they are, as a body.

3824. Do you think that the proprietors of mines are, as a body, more careful of the poor than the potters are?—I do not mean to say that the potters do not contribute to assist the poor and to the different charitable institutions, but I believe that the mining proprietors do their share, and perhaps a full one.

3825. According to your experience, are the miners, as a body, more provident than the men who work in the potteries?—I believe they are.

3826. I understand you to say that the proprietors of mines are careful of their poor, in regard to contributing to different charitable institutions?—Yes.

3827. Do you think that those who possess potteries are equally careful?—I do not myself think that there is the same care taken of the manufacturing as there is of the mining population in isolated districts, because the men and their masters come more in contact a great deal when they are isolated and living together.

3828. They pull better together?—Yes; in fact, I consider that there is a great advantage in employing men out of a populous district.

3829. Have you any agricultural district near you at all?—Yes; ours is an agricultural district; that is, where my works are situated, save and except the mines that are being worked upon the estates.

3830. Are the owners of that property, or the farmers, dependent for the sale of their produce much upon your men?—I should say that a great deal of the produce is sold in the locality.

3831. Supposing the mines were to stop, do you think that the agricultural value of the property in your neighbourhood would be much deteriorated?—I do not mean to say that the agricultural value of the property would be deteriorated, but mining operations cause a good deal of land to be built upon.

3832. Do you think it fair that the agriculturists should contribute to maintain the poor who come from the iron mines, they not deriving any benefit from those iron mines?—I think that the iron mines ought to contribute their proportion.

3833. Colonel *Pennant.*] I understand you to say just now, that the rate upon the ironstone, if calculated on the same basis as the rate is calculated on the coal, would be 2½ *d.* a ton for the poor-rate, and 4 *d.* a ton for all the rates together?—Yes; that would not include the highway-rate; it would be in addition, at 2¼ *d.* for the poor-rate; 2 *d.* would be about the Board of Health rate, and of course the highway-rate would be in addition to that.

3834. And the selling price of that ton, I understand, is about 12 *s.*?—Yes.

3835. What is the usual royalty paid per ton?—From 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per ton on the calcined ironstone.

3836. About a twelfth of the selling value?—It would be something more; 1 *s.* 3 *d.*, perhaps, for the calcined.

3837. In fact, it would be exclusive of the highway-rate, 4 *d.* upon the 1 *s.*, or 1 *s.* 3 *d.*?—Yes.

3838. And I think you say that 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound is the average rate in the rest of the parish?—Two and sixpence in the pound is the Board of Health rate, and 2 *s.* 6 *d.* the poor-rate, in the parish of Wolstanton.

3839. In addition to the other 2 *s.* 6 *d.*?—Yes.

3840. Making it 5 *s.* in the pound?—No; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* would be the poor's-rate in the parish of Wolstanton, 2 *s.* 6 *d.* the Board of Health rate in Tunstall, and 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in Burslem the Board of Health rate.

3841. Do you know how it is assessed; is it taken at its full rental value?—I think they allow a sixth or an eighth off the rental; for instance, in the work I have, I think the rate to the poor is about one-sixth less than the rack rent.

3842. Mr. *Child.*] It was stated by a witness the other day, that land had depreciated in value in the mining districts; do you find that to be the case, or not?—I consider that in the districts of North Staffordshire to which I speak, it has much increased in value.

3843. Mr. *Spooner.*] The Chairman asked you just now, whether you thought it fair for agriculturists to pay for the support of the poor brought in by the opening of mines, without sharing in any of the advantages derived from those mines themselves: do you admit the assumption that the proprietors of land in the neighbourhood are not benefited by the opening of mines?—I think they are very greatly benefited, so long as the mines are in operation.

3844. Does not the opening of mines cause a great addition to the rateable property in the shape of houses for the miners, and other appendages to the mining operations?—Of course it does.

3845. And those become subject to the poor's-rate, do they not?—Yes; they all become subject to the rate.

3846. And of course they increase the rateable property in the parish?—No doubt.

3847. And thus they bear a considerable share of the expense of maintaining the poor?—Yes.

3848. Mr. *Foster.*] Are you at all aware of the proportion which house property bears to farming property in the district?—No; I have no information upon that subject; I find that coals in three parishes are rated now at as much money as coal and ironstone would be, if they were rated on interest upon the rental.

3849. You are aware, probably, that the sum received in respect of the house property forms a very large proportion of the rate?—Of course it does.

3850. And, therefore, notwithstanding the iron mines themselves are exempt, the burthen does not fall upon the agriculturists alone, of maintaining the poor from the ironstone mines?—No.

3851. The sums received in respect of the house property come in aid of that to a considerable extent?—Yes.

3852. *Colonel Pennant.*] But in the event of a mine being thrown out of work, that property would be deteriorated in value, would it not?—Yes, when the working of a mine is discontinued, the miners generally shift from one district to another.

3853. But for the moment, the pressure would be felt upon the rest of the property, would it not?—Yes; but mines do not often close in a day; as the mine is diminished, the labour is diminished too.

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3854. Mr. *Child.*] Have you ever been able to ascertain what proportion miners as a class pay to the poor's-rate, and what they receive?—Yes.

3855. What are the proportions?—In the parish of Wolstanton, coals alone contribute in proportion within one-seventh of the amount paid to the relief of miners; that is coals alone, not taking into consideration the amount of rates collected from the houses of the workmen, and from houses in the occupation of the proprietors.

Hugh William Williamson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. W. Williamson, Esq.

3856. Mr. *Child.*] ARE you a coal and iron master in North Staffordshire?—I am, in partnership with my brothers.

3857. In what parishes are your works situate?—In the parish of Wolstanton, and part of them are in the township of Tunstall.

3858. Are you largely engaged in the raising of coal and ironstone?—We employ 1,200 men and boys.

3859. Do you raise more coal or more ironstone?—We are raising more ironstone at the present time.

3860. Can you state what the proportions are?—About one-third more stone than coal.

3861. Do you consume most of that ironstone, or do you send it away?—The principal portion of it is sent away; there is only a local consumption for from about 300 to 500 tons a week in our district, except by those who raise their own.

3862. You have furnaces of your own, have you not?—We have furnaces of our own.

3863. How are you rated to the poor for the works that you occupy?—We are rated on our coal mines, on our buildings, and on our furnaces.

3864. In what proportions; do you know?—We paid last year 3 *s.* in the pound poor's-rates in Tunstall.

3865. What are you rated at per furnace?—Fifty pounds per furnace.

3866. Are you rated upon your plant, your railway, and your machinery also?—I do not know; we have a general amount sent in, and we do not know the proportions.

3867. Do you see any objection to extending the rating to ironstone as well as to coals?—If it only be for the poor, I do not; but if it is to be extended to town rates, I do see a great objection to it.

3868. Do you consider the principle upon which coals are rated to be a fair principle?—I hardly know upon what principle they are rated, they vary so much.

3869. Can you give us any instances?—I have the particulars from one of our parish officers; we were in 1851 to make a return of the selling price at the pit, and then 11 different deductions were made of that selling price.

3870. Are you subject to heavy rates in the township of Tunstall, besides the poor-rates?—Very heavy; there is a rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound for improvements.

3871. Are those improvements any benefit to your property?—No, certainly not; instead of our men building houses in Tunstall they are going to adjoining parishes.

3872. What is the cause of that?—Because the rates are so heavy upon them.

3873. It has been stated that the police-rate has been increased in consequence of the extension of the mines; in your district is that the case?—No; it is in consequence of the extension of the beershops.

3874. I suppose the beershops have customers?—We have more beershops in proportion than any other population.

3875. Do you think that the whole of the increase is attributable to the extension of the iron mines?—Certainly not.

3876. I apprehend that a great many strangers have been brought into the district; is not that the case?—Many; we are short of labour now.

3877. Has the price of labour increased or diminished since the development of iron mines?—It has increased considerably.

3878. Has property increased or diminished in value since mining operations have increased?—We gave 100*l.* an acre for land in Tunstall about 10 years since, and now we cannot obtain any under 500*l.* an acre.

3879. Has the pottery trade increased or not within the last few years?—It has increased a little; not much.

3880. Do you consider the principle of rating coal mines, as at present practised, a fair principle or not?—I do not consider it fair, for it is rating property which is exhausting every day.

3881. Apart from the land sold for building, do you think that agricultural land has incressed or diminished in value?—The whole land throughout the neighbourhood has increased in value.

3882. Does building land sell for more or less in the town of Tunstall than it used to sell for?—A great deal more.

3883. Has that increased value taken place within a few years?—Within the last ten years, since ironworks have increased there.

3884. It was stated by a witness the other day that the pottery trade had not increased within the last ten years, but that the town itself had increased?—The town has increased in consequence of the iron trade that is carried on, and the large amount of wages that are now paid every Saturday.

3885. *Chairman.*] There has been a large increase in your neighbourhood of ironstone works within the last few years, has there not?—Yes, but it is a very uncertain trade; we commenced in 1834, by sending 40 tons to South Staffordshire to try the market, and now it has extended to from 6,000 to 7,000 tons a week.

3886. It is a very profitable part of your mineral property, is it not?—It is a very precarious trade.

3887. But it is a profitable trade now, is it not?—Yes; but there are times when we lose a great deal of money by it, there being no local consumption.

3888. You have heard a good deal of the examination as to the poor sent to the union from the iron mines; do you see any reason why iron mines should not contribute to the poor's rate as well as coal mines?—I do not see why they should not contribute a small proportion for the poor alone.

3889. You think it a great anomaly, do you not, that coal should contribute, and that other property should not contribute?—We should be willing to contribute from the iron mines in a small proportion.

3890. Mr. *Foster.*] Does the principle of which you have spoken with regard to the rate in 1851 prevail at the present time?—I suppose so.

3891. Do they go into those elaborate calculations of which you have spoken with regard to the 11 deductions?—The same officer now makes the rate who gave me this information.

3892. Mr. *Colvile.*] How would you propose to rate the iron to the support of the poor?—On the profits.

3893. Would you propose to rate it to the highways?—No; to the poor alone.

3894. Mr. *Ridley.*] Does that observation apply to coal mines also?—No; they are differently situated; there is a local consumption for the coals.

3895. Then you would rate them to other things besides the poor-rates?—I would leave the rate as it now is.

3896. Except as regards the principle upon which it is assessed?—Yes.

3897. Mr. *Spooner.*] You have no objection to the rating of coal mines, provided it is done on an equitable principle?—Not at all.

3898. And you have no objection to extend the rating to iron mines, if all were put upon the same footing?—No.

3899. But your principal objection is to the manner in which the property is assessed?—Yes; and I object to extending the principle of rating to iron mines, except as to the poor-rate; it would be a great burthen on some, and not on others. Those who are in the immediate vicinity of towns would feel it more than those who are at a distance, and who could get labour cheaper.

3900. You mean, that where they come within the limit of the town improvement rates a burthen would be thrown on one part of the iron mines which would not fall on the others?—Yes; the effect would be to prevent those iron mines from being worked.

3901. I understand you to say that the opening of iron mines has, in your opinion, increased the value of land in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

3902. What is the present price of building land there?—In Tunstall, from 1,000*l.* to 4,000*l.* an acre.

3903. And what was the price before these mines were opened?—Not a fourth of that.

3904. Colonel *Pennant.*] Do you attribute that entirely to the mines?—I attribute it to the demand that there is for houses for the mining population.

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3905. You attribute it entirely to the ironworks?—Yes.

3906. Mr. *Spooner.*] It has been stated to the Committee that in Tunstall and that immediate neighbourhood the potteries have not increased at all. What is your opinion upon that subject?—In some instances they have been a little enlarged.

3907. But very insignificantly?—Yes.

3908. Then the whole of the alteration in the value of the property you attribute, do you not, to the opening of mines in that district?—To the opening of mines and to works connected with the mines.

3909. You have no sale for your ironstone, have you, you work it up?—We send large quantities to South Staffordshire, to Shropshire, and to North Wales.

3910. I thought you said there was no local demand for it?—No local consumption except by those who raise their own; there are no parties who purchase; not more than from 300 to 400 tons a week are sold for consumption there.

Martis, 7° die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. W. O. Foster.
Mr. G. H. Cavendish.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Child.	Mr. Bouverie.
Mr. Davey.	

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James M'Intyre*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. M'Intyre.*

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3911. Mr. *Child.*] YOU are Chairman of the Board of Health at Burslem?—I am.

3912. And chief bailiff also?—Yes.

3913. You are also in business, are you not?—Yes; I am a manufacturer of china and earthenware.

3914. The Board of Health with which you are connected have, I suppose, discussed this question of rating mines, have they not?—Yes; it has been a good deal discussed among us, and we have frequently petitioned Parliament upon the subject.

3915. What is the opinion entertained by them upon the subject of rating ironstone mines?—They have a very strong opinion that they should be rated.

3916. Upon what grounds do they entertain that opinion?—Chiefly on the ground of the great expense which they occasion, by the use which they make of the highways in carrying their ironstone over them.

3917. Is the cost of repairing the highways greatly increased by the traffic in the shape of ironstone that passes over them?—Yes; and the get of ironstone in that district is gradually increasing from year to year.

3918. Is any of the ironstone consumed in your district?—None; it is calcined there to a considerable extent; in fact, the whole is calcined in the neighbourhood. The whole of it is carted away, and sent out of the district, to the extent of 105,000 tons from that particular district. It is calcined there, but not manufactured in any way.

3919. Are these mines worked principally by natives, or by miners who come from a distance?—Recently there has been a considerable influx of strangers from the neighbouring mining districts, the effect of which has been to produce a very considerable excess of crime, which has given rise to a necessity for a very considerable increase in the police force.

3920. Do you find that the workers in ironstone are, as a class, more troublesome than colliers?—Yes; our colliers are generally connected with the district. We find that strangers are much more troublesome than those who have been long inhabitants in the district. We generally consider that it is the worst of the miners from the neighbouring districts who come to places where new mines are opened.

3921. Are not most of the iron works in your district connected with collieries?—More

—More or less so; but in some cases ironstone works are carried on exclusively as such.

3922. What wages do these men usually get?—That is a question which I cannot answer. From 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a day is about the usual average with us, I think.

3923. Is there any other matter connected with this subject that you would wish to mention to the Committee?—I should wish to say that the opinion I have expressed on the subject of rating ironstone is one which very generally prevails among the inhabitants of Burslem. Many complaints are made by them of the high rates to which they are subject. They have for many years complained of the exemption of ironstone, and the Burslem Board of Health have frequently found it necessary to petition Parliament upon the subject. I may mention also, that the calcining of ironstone in our neighbourhood has become so offensive, that some gentlemen who have lived in the neighbourhood have been obliged to leave it.

3924. *Chairman.*] Where is the ironstone calcined?—On the spot where it is raised.

3925. How long have you been in this neighbourhood?—I have lived in the neighbourhood of Burslem for 25 years.

3926. Has this iron trade sprung up in your neighbourhood since you first knew it?—Yes; but it has existed there for the last 20 years, or more; and is increasing and opening up very rapidly of late years.

3927. Which is the best paying property in your district, with reference to the amount of capital that has been expended upon it?—That connected with ironstone.

3928. That is the best description of property?—It is considered to yield a larger profit than any other article produced in the district.

3929. Is that the description of property which causes the greatest increase in the amount of the highway rate?—Yes; a very large amount is added to the highway rate in consequence of the additional traffic caused by the ironstone.

3930. Is there much cartage?—Yes, a great deal; upwards of 100,000 tons pass over the highways to the canal and railway.

3931. The canal is rated to the poor, is it not?—Yes.

3932. Would this ironstone be as valuable as it is, if you had no canal?—Decidedly not.

3933. With regard to your police rate, is that based upon your poor rate?—I believe it is.

3934. Has the police rate increased much in consequence of the increase in the population, which has been occasioned by the working of the ironstone?—Yes; it has increased very considerably in consequence of several additional police officers being brought there chiefly for that reason.

3935. Do the parties who speculate in these ironstone mines make any provision to assist the poor they create?—I believe not in the slightest degree.

3936. They in no way contribute to the support of the poor?—No; not in any way.

3937. Is there any plant in the case of these ironstone mines that is rated?—I am not prepared to answer that question; the surveyor of the district is here, and will no doubt be able to give you information upon the subject.

3938. You are connected with some potteries, are you not?—Yes.

3939. How are you rated?—Upon the rental.

3940. Do they rate you upon your full rental?—Upon about two-thirds or three-fourths of the actual rental.

3941. If you were to increase the value of your property by buildings, and so on, upon it, would they resurvey your property or not?—I believe there has been no new survey made for many years; it is generally considered that it requires revision, but that has not been done for many years, I believe, although the property has very considerably increased in value.

3942. Are your ironstone mines dangerous as regards their working?—We consider them quite as dangerous, if not more so, than the coal mines are; it is the general opinion that the accidents which are occasioned by ironstone mine getting are as numerous as those which occur in coal getting, though it is difficult to separate the one class from the other.

3943. Do you think that you require a much larger police force, by reason of the introduction of the men who are brought to your district, in consequence of the ironstone mining operations which are carried on there?—We believe so; the

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population is generally increasing, but in consequence of the introduction of these men we certainly require a very considerable increase in the police force.

3944. If I understand you rightly, the most profitable description of working that you have in your neighbourhood is the working of ironstone mines?—Yes, that is my opinion.

3945. The property also which gives rise to the greatest number of accidents, and which brings most poor to the union, in proportion to its extent, is the ironstone property?—In connection with the getting of coal, which is rated, I cannot draw a clear distinction between the amount of injury occasioned by the ironstone and the coal; I cannot disconnect the one from the other.

3946. At any rate you are sure, are you not, that the ironstone sends its fair proportion of poor to the union, either from accidents or ill health?—Yes, we think it rather against the ironstone than the coal.

3947. As far as the highway rates go, it causes more than its fair proportion of the expense that is incurred, does it not?—Yes.

3948. As far also as the population goes, its character is not quite so quiet as it otherwise would be, and it contributes, does it not, more than its fair proportion to the increase of the highway rate?—Yes, we are of that opinion, decidedly.

3949. And it is the only description of mineral property, is it not, that does not contribute to the poor-rate?—Yes.

3950. Colonel *Pennant.*] You say that the ironstone miners are principally strangers who have come from a distance?—For some years past there has been a considerable importation of men from places where they have been working mines at a distance.

3951. You say that some of the owners of land in the neighbourhood have been induced to remove from that neighbourhood, in consequence of the annoyance they have experienced from the process of calcining the ore?—Not only owners of land, but gentlemen who have had residences in the immediate vicinity of the ironworks, have been driven away in consequence of the offensiveness of the calcining of ironstone.

3952. And in consequence of that, has the amount of poor-rate collected been diminished?—Yes, to that extent.

3953. If these were strangers who came into the country, would there not be a set-off to that diminution, caused by the removal of these people, in consequence of the number of additional cottages that would be built for the accommodation of the miners who so come into the district?—If they were rated at all it certainly would be a set-off.

3954. Are they not rated now?—I fancy that the rating of the houses in which the miners live is very trifling, if anything.

3955. But if there were to be a fresh valuation made of the parish they would come into the rating, would they not?—Yes, but I believe it would be so much below the rent on which we now levy rates, that it would scarcely be perceptible.

3956. Do you not rate the lower class of houses?—I think not the very lowest; 6 *l.* houses are the lowest that we rate, I think. I do not think that any house the rent of which is less than 6 *l.* is rated at all.

3957. Not even under the Small Tenements Act?—I think not.

3958. With regard to this calcining of iron ore; the ore of course is increased in value after it is calcined?—It is.

3959. If it were rated in its calcined state, would it not be rating an article to a certain degree in a manufactured state?—I fancy not; the expense of calcining it in the way they do it in our neighbourhood is very trifling, and in some cases where the ore is valuable, it calcines itself. The additional value of the ore when calcined is not great.

3960. However small the additional value may be, it is given to it by its having undergone to a certain extent a manufacturing process?—Yes; I may state that in one of our districts, the hamlet of Sneyd, where a considerable portion of this iron ore is raised, the whole of the amount of the rate raised for highway purposes is expended exclusively or almost exclusively upon three quarters of a mile of highway, which is used for the purpose of conveying the ironstone. In point of fact, the repair of the footpaths and all other improvements of the highway in that district are put in abeyance altogether, in consequence of the inability to raise an additional rate to keep them in repair; almost the whole of the amount raised is expended in keeping that portion of the road in repair, which is cut up by the traffic in ironstone which passes over it.

3961. Mr. *Foster.*] You have said that the Burslem Board of Health have complained frequently of the non-rateability of iron mines; what description of rate is it that is pressing in Burslem?—The poor-rate has been very high; the police rate, and the highway rates have been very high also; all the other rates are now merged in one rate independent of the poor-rate, and these rates are considered so high by the inhabitants of the district, that they frequently make complaints upon the subject; only the week before I left home a large meeting was held, where great complaint was made of the large amount of the rate for sewage and other things, which we as a Board consider necessary to be done; we constantly hear complaints of the amount of the highway rate, and as I have stated before, we have frequently petitioned our members to get ironstone mines rated if possible. The dissatisfaction which has been felt in that district is very great.

3962. Colonel *Pennant.*] If iron mines were rated, would they come within the district of the Board of Health?—As far as the highways are concerned, they would.

3963. They are within the district?—Yes.

3964. Where improvements have been carried on on a large scale, has it not occasioned a large increase in the amount of the rates in other places, and has it not given dissatisfaction?—Yes. In our immediate neighbourhood similar complaints have been made of the largeness of the rate, in consequence of some portions of the property not paying at all.

3965. When they find that the rates press heavily upon them on account of these luxuries which they are enjoying, in the shape of new markets and so on, they look out for some interest on which they can throw a share of the burden, do they not?—If I am not mistaken, the improvements in the shape of new markets do not come out of the rates at all. They come out of the tolls and other funds independent of the ordinary rate.

3966. At all events the complaints to which you have referred apply to local and town rates, do they not, rather than to the poor-rates?—Yes; the Board of Health has more to do with those local rates than with the poor's-rates; they have nothing to do with them; they hear more of the general local rates than of anything else.

3967. Are the poor's-rates in the Burslem Union on the increase?—They have been very high; one year lately the poor-rate was as high as 5 *s.* in the pound; they average about 3 *s.* 4 *d.* I think.

3968. Has that been recently?—I believe it was the very last year.

3969. The iron trade for the last four or five years has been in rather an active state, has it not?—I believe it has.

3970. Is the ironstone mining population fully employed?—Yes; and the works which give them employment are gradually increasing.

3971. Therefore the increase in the amount of the rates must have arisen from causes unconnected with the iron trade, must it not?—We have found that a very large amount of our rates have been expended on roads, which we consider have been very seriously cut up by this very traffic. We are quite satisfied that a very large amount of the outlay for keeping the highways in repair is caused by the very heavy traffic in ironstone that passes over them, some portion of which ironstone finds its way to the canal without even paying the toll to trustees of the turnpike roads.

3972. What proportion do the Board of Health rates bear to the poor-rates?—The usual rate is 1 *s.* 10 *d.* to 2 *s.* in the pound, but this year it is 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, the increase being for the sewerage of the town, which was commenced some 9 or 12 months since.

3973. Colonel *Pennant.*] Do you mean the whole amount of rates for everything?—The poor-rate is independent of this rate; the local rates laid by the Board of Health amount to two and sixpence, including eightpence for the sewage rate.

3974. Mr. *Davey.*] Have you any idea what the reduction would be by the calcination of iron?—Very considerable; there is a considerable quantity of refuse left, but I am not prepared to say how much.

3975. What would be the difference in the value after calcination?—But trifling; I cannot say exactly.

3976. Mr. *Child.*] You stated, I think, in answer to a question put to you by the Chairman, that the miners who are employed in these works are more turbulent than the rest of the population?—We think so.

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3977. Have you any police reports which authorise that statement?—Mr. Lowndes, the clerk of the Board of Health, has, I believe, some statistics upon the subject.

3978. Do you know the district of Kidsgrove?—Yes.

3979. Are you aware that the population there is purely a mining population?—Yes.

3980. Are you aware that there are fewer commitments from that district than there are from any other district in the union?—No; but I think it is not at all unlikely that that should be the case. I did explain, when I spoke of strangers coming amongst us, that they are probably in most cases dissatisfied men from other mining districts, and as strangers we find them more troublesome than the natives of the district.

3981. Would not the same things obtain in other districts?—Probably, if they are increasing as we are.

3982. Are you not aware that Kidsgrove is increasing very much?—Yes.

3983. I am informed that there are fewer commitments there than there are in any other part of the district?—I am not prepared to state how that is, but Mr. Lowndes will be able to speak to it.

3984. *Chairman.*] Some question has been put to you about calcining, and about its being a species of manufacture; there would be no difficulty, I presume, in calculating what quantity of raw material there was?—I think none at all.

3985. The loss in weight by calcining could be approximated very nearly indeed, could it not; I suppose it is pretty regular?—I believe it depends altogether upon the quality of the ore.

3986. The weight of the raw material, then, is never ascertained?—It might be ascertained easily, I should say; I have no statistics to show what loss takes place in the calcining, but I think it might be weighed when it comes from the mine, and afterwards.

3987. You have been asked whether the iron trade has not been very active within the last few years, and you say it has been; I suppose it is the case that the more active a mine is, the greater the increase in the population who come to it to work?—There is no doubt of it.

3988. And of course the greater is the number of poor?—Yes.

3989. As the mine is more active, the poor-rates increase?—Yes, and all other rates also.

3990. The ironstone mine being a species of property which does not contribute to the poor-rate at all?—Exactly.

3991. Mr. *Child.*] Then the better the trade the more the poor-rate; you say that the more employment there is for the people the greater the charge upon the poor-rate?—Decidedly, there is no question about that.

3992. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that it is more dangerous to work an ironstone mine than a coal mine, and that there would be more accidents?—I believe that to be the case.

3993. Then the number of poor would be in proportion to the number of persons employed?—Yes.

3994. So that you would have an increase in the number of your poor, and an increase in the amount of your rates, in consequence of the development of a property which does not pay anything towards the poor-rate?—Just so.

3995. Mr. *Child.*] Do you find that when the iron trade is very good, the rates are higher than they are when the trade is bad?—Not with the same number of employed persons.

3996. Trade is very good now, is it not?—The iron trade is very active indeed.

3997. Are the rates now higher or lower than they were when the iron trade was depressed?—I believe that the poor-rate has been higher within the last year or two, but from what circumstance that has arisen I cannot tell. It is now five shillings; I believe the average is about three and fourpence.

3998. *Chairman.*] Has the highest rate you have known been five shillings?—Yes; and that now exists, and has done so during the last year.

3999. Have you ever known the iron trade more developed than it is now?—No.

4000. Mr. *Foster.*] Do you consider that the increase of the rate of which you have spoken is owing to the beneficial employment of a large population in iron mines?—I should certainly not attribute it to that only; what the cause of the great increase in the poor-rate has been I cannot tell.

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4001. Colonel *Pennant.*] You have no statistics which will show at all to what extent the rates have been affected by the occurrence of accidents to the mining population?—Mr. Lowndes, the clerk of the union, who is here, has statistics of that kind; but I am not prepared to speak to them.

4002. I think you say that the rate is 5 *s.* in the pound altogether?—That is for the poor-rate.

4003. For the poor-rate alone?—Yes, for the poor-rate alone.

4004. Independent of the local rates?—Yes, amounting to half-a-crown in addition. I wish to explain, that in speaking of the increase of the poor-rate, as well as of other rates, being increased in consequence of these additions to the population, I did not mean to say that the 5 *s.* poor-rate existed in consequence of the introduction of these miners. What the cause of the increase is I cannot state; we are certain, however, that some considerable increase arises from those causes.

4005. Do you mean that your rates are now 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound?—Yes.

4006. Mr. *Davey.*] Is that to the full value of the property?—No; there are deductions made. We are assessed in our district rather low than otherwise; manufactories, and houses and property of that description, are, I think, assessed rather low; but those are the rates which are now existing.

4007. Mr. *Child.*] How long have the rates been 5 *s.*?—The last year or year and a half, I think.

4008. Were they 3 *s.* 6 *d.* before that?—On an average of years they were something like 3 *s.* 4 *d.*

4009. During the last year and a half, when they have been 5 *s.*, I suppose these miners were in full work?—I believe there has been pretty regular employment during that time.

4010. Can you tell what has been the average employment in the Potteries during that time; how many days per week has been the average employment in the Potteries?—I should say from four to five days generally throughout the district; some have been fully employed, and others less so.

4011. I mean in your parish?—Yes; I should say from four to five days in the week; there has been no necessity for men to be idle.

4012. *Chairman.*] Have you any farms at all in that immediate district?—It is not a farming or agricultural district; there are some farms in the district, but not many.

Mr. *Joseph Lowndes*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. J. Lowndes.

4013. Mr. *Child.*] YOU live at Wolstanton?—Yes.

4014. You are Clerk to the Wolstanton and Burslem Union, are you not?—I am.

4015. And you are also clerk, are you not, to the Burslem and Tunstall Local Board of Health?—Yes.

4016. They have no connection with each other, have they?—No; but they are both of them within the same poor-law union.

4017. When were you appointed vestry clerk?—In January 1830; and I have been in the office ever since.

4018. You are well acquainted, I presume, with the condition of the people in your district?—Yes; in that capacity I have had a great deal to do with them.

4019. Has there been any increase of pauperism in that district?—There has been a gradual increase.

4020. Have you any statistics to show that?—Yes; at the present moment there are about 1,691 persons who are chargeable.

4021. Can you state what has been the gradual increase of the population?—There has been a rapid increase of the population.

4022. What was the population in 1830, in the Wolstanton and Burslem Union?—I have not got the memorandum with me showing the exact figures, but I can state them pretty accurately, for I was employed in taking the census. The population of Wolstanton parish in 1831 was a little over 10,000; it was 10,800 I believe; and in Burslem at the same time, it was 12,000.

4023. Making altogether 22,800?—Yes.

4024. What was the poor-rate?—For the parish of Wolstanton at that time, it would be about 1 *s.* 3 *d.* in the pound per annum. Burslem has always been rather heavily pauperised; more so than Wolstanton; I think that there it would be about 2 *s.* 8 *d.* or 2 *s.* 10 *d.*

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4025. What was the population in 1841?—In 1841 the population of Wolstanton increased to 16,570, and Burslem about 16,000; it was 16,090, I think.

4026. What was the poor-rate then?—It was increased; for Wolstanton it would be about 2 *s.* I think.

4027. How much was it in Burslem?—That would be over 3 *s.*

4028. Was not the union workhouse built about that time?—The union workhouse was built about 1840, but the Exchequer Loan Commissioners lent the money, which was to be repaid in twenty years. We have just paid the last instalment. There was no perceptible increase in consequence of that.

4029. That is just finished, is it not?—Yes.

4030. Would not that have the effect of increasing the rates up to the present time?—Yes, slightly.

4031. How much was the sum lent?—8,100 *l.*; the annual instalment was 405 *l.*, with interest, for the whole union.

4032. What was the population of Wolstanton in 1851?—22,192.

4033. And what was the population of Burslem?—19,724.

4034. What were the rates at that time?—In 1851 the rates for Wolstanton did not exceed 2 *s.*, and for Burslem they were about 3 *s.* 4 *d.*

4035. Have you any statistics to show what proportion of the increase in the population was attributable to mining operations?—I can state that positively there has been an increase of population where the mining operations have been carried on in the various townships; at Kidsgrove, the north of Wolstanton parish, and Silverdale, the south of Wolstanton parish, and Tunstall, which is also a mining district, it has increased more rapidly than in any of the other townships; the population at the present time approaches 50,000 in two parishes.

4036. How many townships are there in this union?—Twelve in Wolstanton, and four in Burslem.

4037. How many of these townships are what you would call mining districts?—There are sixteen in the whole; there are mines in each township; mines are got in the four townships of Burslem; and in Wolstanton, already mines are got in 10; there are 14 altogether out of the 16 that are mining.

4038. What description of mining is increasing there?—The ironstone mining is very much increasing.

4039. Do you know anything about the number of farms and so forth that are rateable according to the last assessment?—Yes; there are 19 farms in the parish of Burslem and 84 farms in the parish of Wolstanton; that excludes small holders of land; I have only taken the farms; those with a homestead upon them.

4040. Do you know what is the number of manufactories and houses, and what is their rateable value?—In the parish of Wolstanton there are eighteen manufactories; the rateable value of those manufactories is 2,087 *l.*; the number of houses in the parish of Wolstanton, comprising dwelling-houses and houses of all classes, is 5,230 *l.*, and the rateable value of those is 24,287 *l.*

4041. Do you know what the collieries are rated at?—Yes; the collieries in Wolstanton are rated at 7,653 *l.* The total amount of rate is 54,489 *l.*

4042. *Chairman.*] Do I understand that the manufactories of which you have spoken are in Wolstanton alone, or in Burslem?—In Wolstanton alone.

4043. And the houses also?—Yes.

4044. And the collieries?—Yes.

4045. Mr. *Child.*] Have you got the number of the collieries?—Yes; there are 27 collieries and iron works.

4046. *Chairman.*] The iron works include the plant, do they not?—I beg your pardon, I am speaking of coal works entirely; there are also ten furnaces and four iron works; they are rated at 1,291 *l.*

4047. What is the rateable value of the 84 farms?—They are rated at 13,006 *l.*

4048. Have you assisted the overseer in the valuation and assessment of property?—I have.

4049. Do you consider that the value of land in your district has depreciated in consequence of the mining operations which have been carried on there?—There have been very considerable reductions on the farms in consequence; the spoil banks, the calcining of ironstone, and other processes, have depreciated the value of the farms very considerably, and the occupiers of the farms have made application for deductions, which have been made in all such cases.

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4050. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do; I have made the deductions constantly.

4051. In what cases?—There is a farm at Burslem, held under the Earl of Macclesfield; there is also a farm which Mr. Dean occupies; and, if necessary, I can give the names of the occupiers of several others where deductions have been made.

4052. In cases where injury is done to the surface by spoil-banks, and so on, do not the workers of the collieries pay trespass?—They pay a certain amount of trespass, I believe, to the tenant, but for the purposes of the rate it is always deducted; they claim the deduction, and it is always made.

4053. Is it not the practice for the occupiers of collieries to pay to the tenant of the land at least double the rent?—I am not aware that it is.

4054. Did you ever see any leases granted for the purpose of mining operations?—Not to read them particularly; I have seen them.

4055. Is it not the invariable rule for those leases to contain a clause requiring the occupier to pay to the tenant double rent?—I remember that there is some amount paid for trespass, but I cannot state the particulars.

4056. What is it that causes the depreciation in the value of the land?—The working of the ironstone mines, which lie near the surface, and the calcining, which destroys vegetation completely.

4057. Is that the result of the fumes arising from the burning?—Yes, and the great heat from the immense masses undergoing calcination.

4058. Have many houses or cottages for the miners been built in the district?—A great many.

4059. What proportion do they pay towards the rates?—The available amount would be very small in consequence of the frequent changes of tenants that take place; they are persons who do not remain long; that is remarkably the case both in Burslem and in Wolstanton, more especially in Burslem; the rates are levied twice a year; when the rate is called for, it very commonly happens that the occupiers are gone away; a very large proportion of those cottages form the void or abated or excused lists.

4060. Are the ironstone workers better behaved or worse than the rest of the population?—They seem to be a distinct class; the inhabitants of the district, generally speaking, are provident, but the ironstone miners as a class, are not so provident, and when they are taken sick, or when they meet with any accident, an application is immediately made to the parish.

4061. Are there no field clubs in connexion with these miners?—There are some, but they are not very general.

4062. What districts are exclusively occupied by the workers in these mines?—Burslem I may say, generally, because ironstone exists more or less in the entire parish.

4063. The population is mixed in Burslem altogether, is it not?—Yes, altogether. Tunstall is also a mining district, and so is Golden Hill, and Kidsgrove, including Brierylurst and other places on the north side of Wolstanton parish; and Knutton, which is now called Silverdale, with Chesterton and a portion of Chatterley, on the south side; those are all mining districts now.

4064. Is not the population of the district which you call Kidsgrove exclusively a mining population?—It is.

4065. Do you find more paupers in that district than there are in other parts of the parish, in proportion to the population?—There are a considerable number of applications in consequence of casualties, but I think that pauperism does not exist more there as a rule than it does in other parts.

4066. Although that is exclusively a mining population?—Yes.

4067. I believe they applied lately for a Bill to get a market, did they not?—Yes.

4068. And they stated the population of Kidsgrove to be about 3,000, did they not?—Yes; that includes several of the townships I have enumerated.

4069. That is exclusively a mining population, is it not?—There are a number of farms that are included within the area.

4070. Are you not aware that there have been fewer commitments for crimes in that district than there have been in other parts of the union?—Certainly, owing to the very great attention that has been paid to their spiritual welfare by the late Mr. Kinnersley, and the trustees of Mr. Kinnersley and others.

4071. Still they are exclusively a mining population, are they not?—They are.

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4072. Is ironstone rated to the poor, or does it contribute to the highways at all?—No.

4073. Do you consider that the highway rates have been much increased in consequence of the carting of the ironstone?—Decidedly.

4074. Do you consider that ironstone ought to be rated?—I do.

4075. Do you consider that coal is fairly rated?—Yes, I believe so. I have heard no particular complaints upon the subject.

4076. Are there any other observations or suggestions which you would wish to make to the Committee?—I have not gone through the statistics of Burslem.

4077. Then you had better state them, if you please; when was the valuation made?—In 1837, immediately after the passing of the Parochial Assessment Act; new property has been valued from year to year, or twice a year; all new property, and all additions to property, have been added to the valuation year by year; the total number of houses in Burslem according to the last rate is 4,222, and the rateable value is 22,686 *l.*; there are 57 manufactories of all classes in Burslem, and they are rated at 6,790*l.*; that includes small firms as well as large; the next item is coal mines; there are 11 in Burslem parish; they are rated at 2,454*l.*; there are no forges or iron works.

4078. *Chairman.*] What farms are there?—There are 19 farms.

4079. What are they rated at?—They are rated at 4,448*l.*; the total amount of the rate is 43,678*l.* for Burslem; there are a number of other items; brick-works, wharfs, canals, railways, and a variety of items, making this total.

4080. What do the canals, and so on, amount to?—In Burslem parish 2,770*l.*; there is other property consisting of mills for grinding flint, and other materials connected with the potteries; there are 17 of them; they are rated at 4,227*l.*; then there are shops and warehouses which are rated at 822*l.*; wharfs in connexion with the canal, 504*l.*; then there are the gasworks and waterworks.

4081. I understood you to say just now, that the ironstone works pay nothing to the poor-rates?—Nothing whatever.

4082. But they in one sense of the word diminish the amount of the poor-rates, inasmuch as they destroy a part of the fee of the surface of the land, do they not?—They do.

4083. And, therefore, as the land pays less, the manufactories, houses, and collieries pay more?—They do.

4084. Have you any idea of the royalties which in Wolstanton are paid to the proprietors of these ironstone mines?—I believe they are about 1*s.* 6*d.* a ton.

4085. Can you state what the tonnage is, at all?—No, but the surveyor is here, who has the figures; he can state what the royalties are, and he has all the particulars connected with the subject.

4086. Of all the properties in the Wolstanton district, which is the most valuable?—The mining. There is a very large area untouched, which is said to be the richest mining district in the county.

4087. Is that district opening up now year after year?—Yes.

4088. Is it opened up now enough to give it a large value?—Very large.

4089. Is it equal in value to the manufactories there?—More so.

4090. Is it equal in value to the collieries there?—Much more.

4091. In point of fact, it is the most valuable property that you have there, is it not?—I should say so.

4092. And is it likely to be much larger?—Yes.

4093. As to the number of hands employed in raising ironstone, do you think they are at all equal to the number of hands employed in the collieries?—Yes; I should think there are more employed in raising ironstone than there are employed in the collieries at the present time.

4094. I suppose they hardly equal the manufacturing population?—No.

4095. If I understand you correctly, the ironstone property is the largest property that there is there in value, and it is likely to be much larger?—Very likely.

4096. And in consequence of the development of that property, your poor-rates have increased?—Yes, decidedly.

4097. Those who speculate in ironstone have been thus far fortunate, that they have made good returns?—Yes; and they are exempt from rates.

4098. Have you ever had any meetings to take the matter into consideration, or do you speak merely from general conversation?—The subject has frequently been brought before boards of guardians and other local boards.

4099. Have

4099. Have any remonstrances been made on the part of the guardians in case of accidents, asking for relief in any way?—In petitions which have been presented to the House of Commons, there have been allusions to it; I have gone through the out-door relief list for last week, and have ascertained from the relieving officers of the parish, as far as it can be ascertained, the exact number of those who have become chargeable in respect of coal, and those who have become chargeable in respect of ironstone mining.

4100. Can you divide at all the coal and the iron?—I have done so, as far as I can; the total number of persons relieved last week for the union out-door was 1,691.

4101. Does that include Burslem and Wolstanton?—Yes.

4102. You had 1,691 paupers receiving out-door relief?—Yes, on Thursday and Friday last, and out of that number we have ascertained that 400 were connected with coal and iron mines, that 400 being made up as follows; I can give you the parishes separately, if you please.

4103. Out of the 1,691, there were 400 connected with coal and iron mines?—Yes.

4104. Can you divide them in any way?—Yes; for Burslem there are 99 persons; of those 99, 29 are widows; 42 are children connected with the widows. There are 17 males, most of whom are permanently disabled, and 11 adult females.

4105. When you speak of 29 widows, do you mean women who have become widows in consequence of recent accident?—No; many of them have been chargeable for some years.

4106. What do you mean by making the distinction between widows and adult females; you say there are 29 widows and 11 adult females?—Most of the men are married, not all of them, and the females are not widows, but their wives or deserted females. I see one case was the case of a woman with two children; her husband has absconded; he is a miner, and therefore she is included. The others are the wives of the males I have referred to. Of that number I have ascertained that four are widows of persons who were working in ironstone mines when they met with their death; 15 are children connected with those widows; and there are six adults, three men and three women, chargeable; 25 out of 99 are chargeable to ironstone; that is in the parish of Burslem.

4107. Out of 99 paupers in Burslem I understand you to say 25 specially belong to iron mines?—Yes; that we have traced; I have got the names and particulars; I have also ascertained that 10 out of the number died from accidents in mines, but I could not ascertain whether they were coal or ironstone mines. The figures I have given include the irremovable; I have given all classes of persons, and more than one half are made up of the removable; there are 301 paupers on the Wolstanton list, who were relieved last week, connected with coal and ironstone mines; 82 of these are widows, 143 are children, 42 are adult males, and 32 are adult females.

4108. Now take the ironstone cases?—Twenty-six widows, 61 children, 16 adult males, and 12 adult females; 115 as against 301, or more than a third; I find also that of the husbands of the widows now on the books, 29 died from accidents in the coal and ironstone pits.

4109. Out of the 82, 29 died from accidents?—Yes.

4110. But you cannot classify them?—No; I have no means of doing so.

4111. Do you think that the farms in either parish are largely enhanced in value in consequence of the mining population being near?—Some of the farmers may be benefited, but, generally speaking, I should think that the farms are not enhanced in value; those resident in the immediate vicinity of the mines frequently get their horses employed in team work and so on.

4112. Mr. *Bouverie.*] The amount in the pound appears to have risen in Burslem between 1853 and 1857 from 3*s.* to 5*s.*; is that so?—Yes.

4113. Is that money expended for the relief of the poor?—It includes all payments; the county rate and all the items chargeable to the poor-rate, which are now very considerable.

4114. Does it include any rate for the Board of Health?—No, that is not included; they are poor rates exclusively; in Burslem there was a rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; 1*s.* 10*d.* for the general district rate, and 8*d.* for the special district rate for sewerage.

4115. Have you the amounts which were expended for the relief of the poor only for those years?—I have for the two years.

 4116. What

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4116. What was it in the pound?—The amount expended for two years ending at Lady-day last for settled poor in the union was 9,218 *l.*

4117. That is for the two parishes, is it not?—Yes; and irremovable, 5,993 *l.*, making a total of 15,211 *l.*

4118. What is the difference between the gross estimated rental and the net rental for provision for poor-rate, at Burslem and Wolstanton?—From the gross estimated rental for buildings, one-sixth is deducted; and in the case of land, one-twelfth.

4119. Colonel *Pennant.*] Did you hear the last witness say it was two-thirds?—With reference to house and cottage property, there is a difference in the rating; I have frequently tried to ascertain the real difference; it will be on houses more than two-thirds of the actual rental, but rentals fluctuate very much. In one locality a house, if it happens to be near a market-place, and so on, will be charged very high; while another house of the same dimensions just at the back of it, will be charged much less; but taking the rentals generally, house property will be a little over two-thirds of the real rackrent.

4120. Then the remark of the last witness applied only to houses, not to land?—Not to land; the farms are rated to their full value.

4121. Mr. *Bouverie.*] Do you rate houses under the value of 6 *l.* a year?—Yes; an attempt was made to introduce the Small Tenements Act a few years ago, but it was rejected by a large majority at a public meeting.

4122. To what cause do you attribute the great increase in the amount of rates in the parish of Burslem, between 1855 and 1856?—There has been a considerable increase of pauperism, but the police rates have also been increased in consequence of the larger number of men who are employed in the district.

4123. Has the amount of employment diminished in those years, as compared with the years 1854 and 1855?—No; I am not aware that there has been any perceptible difference in the amount of trade carried on in the district during that year; but Burslem parish was in debt, and the Guardians thought it desirable to have a little balance in hand, and therefore they made the rates prospectively in order to secure it, and we have now a balance in hand.

4124. Then 5 *s.* in the pound is a fair indication of what will be the permanent charge upon the rateable property in the parish?—No; the average for the last five years is 3 *s.* 4 *d.* in Burslem, and in Wolstanton 2 *s.* 6 *d.* In point of fact, the rates have doubled during the last ten years.

4125. Mr. *Foster.*] Which is more peculiarly the mining district?—Burslem; there are only 13 farms; but Wolstanton will be much more so, for while Burslem contains only 2,800 acres, Wolstanton contains 10,000 acres, a great part of which, so far as the mines are concerned, is at present untouched.

4126. The amount of house property that is rateable appears to bear a very large proportion to the other property in both districts; is not that the case?—It is.

4127. What is the nature of that house property, generally speaking?—It includes houses of all classes, but the large majority are houses occupied by the workmen.

4128. We have been told that the gentry of the neighbourhood have been driven away by the smoke arising from the calcining of the ironstone?—Yes; that has been the case in some instances.

4129. The houses here are not houses, I suppose, of a very large annual rental?—The majority of them are not.

4130. Do you consider that the increase of the population in the district, between the year 1831 and 1851, is mainly attributable to the development of the iron mines?—Yes, mainly.

4131. And therefore the population occupying this house property is chiefly an iron-mining population, or it is occupied by parties who are dependent upon the iron mines?—Yes, in those localities.

4132. And the amount receivable from houses appears in both instances to be, so far as I have seen from the data which you have given us, about one-half of the whole rateable property of the union?—The houses, including all cases for the two parishes, amount to 46,973 *l.*; in Wolstanton 24,287 *l.*, and in Burslem 22,686 *l.*

4133. So that, as nearly as possible, the house property pays one half of the rates?—Yes.

4134. Is this house property in the occupation chiefly of miners and of those dependent on the mines?—I have already stated that the calculation includes all classes of houses.

4135. The

4135. The canals, wharfs, and railways in the districts which contribute to the poor-rate are also dependent, are they not, very much for their revenues on the ironstone mining?—They form one portion, but the manufacturing development of both parishes is very considerable. Burslem has been a manufacturing town for a long time, the ironstone has only been recently introduced, and so with regard to portions of Wolstanton parish, the town of Tunstall, and other portions of it; so that they would form one item in the revenue, but not the main one.

4136. Persons engaged in the china and earthenware manufacture, composing, as they must do, the great bulk of the ratepayers; has dissatisfaction been expressed by them with regard to the non-rateability of the iron mines?—I have heard dissatisfaction expressed on all hands both by manufacturers, farmers, and coalowners also; it is very generally spoken of.

4137. I am speaking now of the great mass of the ratepayers, because the coalowners and the farmers appear to be in the minority; the great amount appears to be paid by the house property; has any strong dissatisfaction been expressed by that class of ratepayers?—I have heard very frequent complaints made by manufacturers, as well as by the operatives, but, as I have stated before, there has not been, so far as I am aware, any public meeting held upon the subject, though I have heard it incidentally introduced on more than one occasion.

4138. I suppose the parochial authorities who collect those rates would prefer having to collect them from a few large coal proprietors, from whom they get a good lumping sum, rather than from the house property, which is now legally rateable, and which occasions to the officials some little trouble in collecting the rate?—I suppose there might be some feeling of that sort on the part of the collector.

4139. It has been stated to the Committee, that in some cases in which coal mines are rateable, the occupiers of that property are generally the first parties who are looked to by the parochial officers, and that when they have got from them sufficient for the wants of the union, they neglect very much to collect rates from the house property?—I have heard the manufacturers also say very frequently that they are the first parties called upon to pay; but so far as our union is concerned, the rates are closely balanced half yearly; we never allow any arrears; they are exceedingly small; the cheque books are taken from the collectors on the 25th of March and the 29th of September in each year.

4140. Colonel *Pennant.*] Are there many distresses?—Not many. There are always ratepayers of a certain class who will not pay until they are summoned.

4141. Mr. *Foster.*] There appears to be a little confusion of ideas respecting the destruction of surface, and a loss of the rates thereby; the worker of mines is answerable, is he not, for the land which he covers with spoil; he pays a very considerable rent for the occupation of land in that way, does he not?—Yes, I believe so; I believe he pays some acknowledgment.

4142. Not only does he pay an acknowledgment, but he pays a very considerable rent, does he not, for the land which he occupies for spoil-banks?—I am not aware that that is so; there is a certain sum allowed to the tenant by his landlord, but I know that the farmers are very early in their applications when an ironstone mine is opened for a deduction in consequence of it.

4143. But of course if they were getting sufficient compensation for the occupation of their land by the worker of the mines for his spoil-banks, they would not in that case be entitled to any relief?—It has been occupied as arable or meadow land, and ceases to be so beneficially occupied; we cannot take into account any arrangement between the occupier and the owner.

4144. Does not that land generally go from the occupation of the farmer to that of the mine owner?—No, not with us, unless the worker of the mine, as is the case in an instance which I have under my eye at this moment, is the occupier of the farm also.

4145. If he receives compensation more than equivalent to the rent he pays, is not that a beneficial occupation by the farmer of the surface?—I am not aware that it is so with us; in point of fact, I believe it is not so.

4146. Mr. *Davey.*] Is there much land destroyed by the fumes and heats which attend the calcination of the ironstane?—Yes, all round.

4147. To what distance does the mischief extend?—To a considerable distance.

4148. Is the herbage injured?—Yes, and vegetation too; hedges and trees are destroyed to a considerable extent; the heaps are very large.

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4149. Is the herbage so much injured as to destroy cattle if they eat it?—It might have that effect.

4150. Mr. *Child.*] You state that the rental has depreciated; do you believe that the rental of the parish in 1851 was less than it was in 1831; if the property has depreciated, of course the rental has depreciated?—There has been a gradual increase of property, in consequence of the continual erections of houses and buildings.

4151. I will take the land occupied for agricultural purposes; do you consider that the rental of that was less in 1851 than it was in 1831?—Decidedly.

4152. Do you imagine that the landlords of those parishes are receiving less rent now than they were receiving 20 years ago?—No, I cannot say that.

4153. If the rental for agricultural land is less than it was, then the landlords must be receiving less?—I am speaking with reference to the assessment.

4154. You say that the land is depreciated in value?—When a mine is opened, and the mines got, land in the immediate vicinity of the mine falls in. In the case of the union workhouse we received 300 *l.* as compensation; it was used for barracks by the Board of Ordnance, and when it was so occupied, the ground gave way, in consequence of the adjoining mining operations which were carried on there; the infantry became alarmed, and vacated the premises; we claimed compensation for that, and the Board of Ordnance paid 300 *l.* as compensation; that is the class of depreciation to which I refer.

4155. What I was asking you was as to the depreciation of agricultural land?—I cannot say as to that.

4156. I apprehend that the increase of mining operations has been larger in Wolstanton than it has been in Burslem; is that so?—It has.

4157. Within the last 10 years?—Yes.

4158. Although the rates remain precisely the same, the rates in Wolstanton were 2 *s.* in the pound in 1851, and in 1841 they were the same?—I cannot fully rely upon my memory as to 1841.

4159. You admit that the increase of the mining population has been larger in Wolstanton than it has been in Burslem?—It has, because it is a new business in Wolstanton.

4160. In 1831 the rates in Wolstanton were 1 *s.* 3 *d.* in the pound?—Yes.

4161. In 1831 there was no county police, I believe?—No.

4162. That 1 *s.* 3 *d.* included the county rate, did it not?—For the time being.

4163. The rate in 1841 included the county rate, I believe?—Yes.

4164. Between 1831 and 1841 there was a rural police appointed, was there not?—No; it was subsequently to the year 1842.

4165. And there have been large outlays, have there not, within the last 10 years for building gaols, and so on?—Yes.

4166. Station houses have been built in almost every place, I believe?—Yes.

4167. *Chairman.*] As to the reduction in the amount of rate received in consequence of rubbish, and so on, being thrown upon the land, as I understand from you, the moment a farmer finds the area of his surface is diminished by mine rubbish, he is very early in his application for a reduction of rates?—That is so.

4168. You have been asked whether in that case the farmer does not receive double rent; suppose he does receive double rent, that in no way affects the other ratepayers, does it?—No.

4169. The loss to them is the same to them whether he receives double or treble rent?—Yes; it does not affect the ratepayers

4170. Therefore the mine not only pays no rate, but it throws an additional burthen upon the other ratepayers, inasmuch as it destroys property which did pay rates?—Yes.

4171. Mr. *Child.*] Does the tenant receive double rent to enable him to pay rates for his land, or for what purpose does he receive double rent?—I cannot say.

4172. *Chairman.*] If I understand you rightly, the moment a farm is reduced in area by rubbish from the mine being thrown upon the land, he takes an early opportunity of applying for a reduction of rates on that property, inasmuch as the surface property is reduced in value?—Just so.

4173. And the rate is reduced in consequence?—It is.

4174. Does his receiving rent for that destruction of property at all affect the rate?—No; we cannot take it into calculation; it is not one of the items of calculation.

4175. Do you ever think it necessary when he makes an application for a reduction of rate, to question him as to whether he receives an acknowledgment or payment for the loss which he sustains?—No; we look at it with reference to what it is worth to let as it stands with that trespass and depreciation upon it.

4176. As far as your experience goes, is there an allowance made?—There is; I have made it myself, many times.

4177. That allowance depreciates, does it not, the value of the rateable property in the parish which before was rated?—Yes.

4178. Mr. *Cavendish.*] It is so much land struck off from the rateable property of the parish?—Yes; so much land deducted from the rateable property.

4179. *Chairman.*] What is the usual custom with reference to the landlord; does he receive any payment for the destruction of a portion of the surface?—I cannot say.

4180. That depends, does it not, upon the terms of the lease?—Yes.

4181. That is a matter for settlement between the lessor and lessee?—Yes.

4182. It does not affect the ratepayer in any way?—No, it does not.

4183. Do you conceive that the coal being rated, manufactories being rated, and the ironstone not being rated, that is fair, or otherwise, to the ratepayers generally?—I consider that it is unfair to the other ratepayers.

4184. You consider it to be a great anomaly, do you not?—A great anomaly.

4185. As to the houses; which kind of houses pay the highest rental generally, houses occupied by manufacturers, or houses occupied by miners?—Houses occupied by shopkeepers, and in connexion with manufactories, and so on.

4186. Take the houses generally in the whole of the union; what proportion should you say was connected immediately with mines and what proportion with manufactories?—The largest proportion, certainly, would be connected with manufactories, but that has been for many years the staple trade in Burslem, and partly so in Wolstanton also.

4187. The manufacturers are not a moving population, are they?—No.

4188. They stay there, and their numbers increase gradually?—Yes; the old workhouse at Burslem is being turned into a manufactory now; we have recently sold it.

4189. You speak from memory up to 1851, but from 1852 you speak from notes, do you not?—Yes.

4190. I find that in 1853 your poor's rate for Burslem was 3*s.* in the pound?—It was so.

4191. And you go on gradually increasing till 1857, 2*s.* 8*d.*, 2*s.* 10*d.*, 4*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.*?—Yes, that is for the year ending at Lady-day 1857.

4192. Can you give any reason for the immense increase which took place between 1853 and 1857 from 2*s.* 10*d.* to 5*s.*?—It has mainly arisen from the increase of population, owing chiefly to the increase in mining operations; in the parish of Burslem a great number of cottages have been built; I remember 139 being erected at one time, and in Wolstanton a very considerable number have been erected.

4193. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Would not part of the increase of the rate be due to the increase in the price of provisions?—No doubt the high prices of provisions would affect it materially.

4194. *Chairman.*] Can you state what has been the cost per head in the house on the establishment charge from 1853 to 1857?—I cannot tell from memory; I have not the papers here which would enable me to give you that information correctly; I believe that in 1853 it would be about 2*s.* 8*d.* a head per week.

4195. What is it now?—Three shillings and a penny halfpenny per head per week, including all classes.

4196. Mr. *Child.*] I understood you to say that the reason why the rate had increased so largely in Burslem was, that there were some arrears; that the rate had been levied prospectively, and that now you have money in hand?—At Lady-day 1856 Burslem was unable to meet its payments promptly; the rate did not cover the amount that was due, the estimates being exceeded, and therefore the guardians and overseers increased the rate that year, so that they might not be without a balance in hand; they were aiming to get about 1,000*l.* in hand.

4197. *Chairman.*] As I understand you, your bankers were uneasy?—The treasurer is never allowed to advance money, but the guardians wished to make their payments promptly, as they did in the other parish, and therefore they

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increased the rate, with the view of having, at the end of the year, an available balance.

4198. Before that, at the end of the year, you were in debt to your bankers, were you not?—No; we could not meet our payments; the bills due to tradesmen could not be met; there was no actual advance of money, because that is not allowed; we could not pay them until another rate was made.

4199. And then you levied 1,000 *l.* extra?—Yes.

4200. I find that next year there is an increase, to the extent of nearly 2,000 *l.*?—Yes.

4201-2. That is from 1856 to 1857; how do you account for that?—It was necessary in consequence of the increased demands made upon the parochial funds.

4203. Mr. *Foster.*] Will you state, if you please, at what period the analysis of the rate you have given to the Committee was taken?—Up to Lady-day 1857; the last rate.

4204. I am speaking of the analysis you gave us in the early part of your evidence?—It was for the year ending in May 1857; the last parochial year.

4205. Can you tell us the amount levied on farms and land in 1831?—No, I have not got that.

4206. Colonel *Pennant.*] The county rate was included in this, was it not?—Yes.

4207. Have you any analysis of that county rate to show any additional burthens that were thrown upon the county at that time?—No, I have not.

4208. Mr. *Foster.*] You have no analysis of the disbursements?—No.

4209. Colonel *Pennant.*] Nor of the county rate?—No.

4210. Do you know of any additional burthen that was imposed upon the county at that time, such as for lunatic asylums, barracks for the militia, or anything of that sort?—The Lunatic Asylum I know was enlarged, and there have been barracks.

4211. Do you know in what year those were levied upon the county rate?—Within the last two or three years.

4212. Would not that account for some increase of the rate?—There has been some increase, but I cannot say what.

4213. Do you know what the total increase of the county rate has been during those three years?—I do not.

4214. Are there not barracks at Lichfield, at Stafford, and at Newcastle?—There is one at Stafford, and one at Newcastle; Lichfield I cannot speak to.

Mr. *Ralph Hales*, called in; and Examined as follows.

Mr. *R. Hales.*

4215. *Chairman.*] YOU are an Engineer and Surveyor at Cobridge?—Yes.

4216. Have you been much connected with mines in the neighbourhood of Burslem and Wolstanton?—I have, for the last twenty years.

4217. Are you surveyor on the part of the ratepayers, or how?—I am surveyor for the Burslem Local Board of Health, and also for the Tunstall Local Board of Health; those are two districts adjoining each other, and comprising the principle seat of the ironstone operations in North Staffordshire.

4218. We will confine ourselves, if you please, to the Union of Burslem and Wolstanton; will you have the goodness to explain to us what is the nature of your duties as surveyor; do you survey the property each year?—I have nothing to do with surveying the property; the Public Health Act fixes as a basis of rating the assessment to the poor, with the exception of certain property which is rated at only one-fourth the amount; canals, railways, and that description of property, are only rated at one-fourth of the assessment to the poor, so far as the general district rates are concerned; that is in itself, in some cases, a greater hardship than if they were rated equally.

4219. On what ground is it that it is only so rated?—It was considered that the general district rate would be an improvement rate, to be expended specifically in towns. I believe that that was a reason, and that such property would be comparatively but little benefited; but in our case it acts injuriously, because that class of property has its equal value, and proportionate share of expenditure.

4220. Do you survey for anything but the Board of Health?—Occasionally I survey for the Board of Guardians of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union for rating purposes.

4221. When

4221. When you are called in by the Board of Guardians, is that with reference to improvements?—Yes, where there have been alterations, and, in some instances, where deductions are claimed.

4222. What is the largest kind of rateable property that you have to deal with?—The houses, as to the total amount of rating.

4223. You have heard what the last witness has said with reference to houses?—Yes.

4224. Do you agree with him, or not, when he says that the better class of houses, and the larger number of houses, belong to persons connected with manufactories?—Yes, decidedly.

4225. It is a better class of house?—It is the same class of house, but there is no comparison between the number of people engaged in mining and the number engaged in manufactures; three-fourths are engaged in the staple manufacture of the district, the pottery trade, and things connected therewith; then we always have had large coal-getting establishments.

4226. Your ironstone mines are opening up very largely, are they not?—They are.

4227. Are they increasing in value every year?—They are increasing, both in value and in extent; in fact they are almost overrunning both parishes.

4228. Have you any other description of property, not even excepting coal mines, that, as far as you know, pays such a large amount of interest for outlay as the ironstone mines?—None whatever.

4229. Then that is the most profitable kind of property in your neighbourhood?—There is no doubt of it.

4230. And that, I suppose, attracts capitalists there?—Yes; parties from South Staffordshire are taking mines, and opening them, as well as others.

4231. The ironstone pays upon the poor-rate?—It does not in any way or form; not even the plant, the land, the tramways, or anything connected with it; the moment an ironstone mine is established, exemptions are claimed, both for land occupied by spoil and for everything connected therewith.

4232. Does the calcining process injure the land at all, or do the fumes arising from the calcination damage the crops?—A great deal, and the adjoining buildings are also damaged, and in some cases houses are rendered uninhabitable in consequence.

4233. If I understand you rightly, it not only injures the land, and the crops growing upon it, but it also has the effect of driving off parties who were the occupiers of houses there?—It does; and those are very often the best class of houses as regards the payment of rates.

4234. Have the rates in your district largely increased the rate?—Yes, they have.

4235. What species of property leads to that increase as much as any?—The ironstone. If you will permit me, I will give you a few statistics; in the parish of Wolstanton there are 21 establishments working coal and ironstone mines; they comprise 38 coal pits, 93 ironstone pits, and 15 pits in which coal and ironstone are both got; those are the number of pits now at work, irrespective of great numbers of pits that are temporarily set aside, or are worked out; the engine power employed for the purpose of raising coal is 493 horse-power, while for ironstone there is 855 horse power; employed for pumping water there is 725 horse power; the number of tons of coals raised last year, according to the returns, are 208,953, and of slack 124,029; the rateable value of the coal mines assessed to the poor being 7,653 *l.* out of an assessment of 54,489 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.*

4236. I do not think it is necessary to go into these details; I believe we had them just now from the last witness?—I think not. In the parish of Burslem there are 14 establishments working coal and ironstone mines, which comprise 21 coal pits, 64 stone pits, and 12 coal and ironstone pits.

4237. You, as a surveyor, called in every now and then to look at the value of different properties, have come to the conclusion, as I understand you, that this ironstone property not only is a valuable, but an increasingly valuable description of property?—It is.

4238. And do you think it is likely to bring a much larger population into your district?—Yes; the population is continually increasing.

4239. A good many questions have been put as to the kind of population; would you say that they are more quiet, or that they are a more difficult population to manage, than the more stable population?—We look on miners as

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two distinct classes—ironstone miners and coal miners; the coal miners are generally natives; they are a more settled population and more provident; the ironstone miners generally come from other parts of Staffordshire, from Wales, from Lancashire, and different places; they are a very different class of people altogether.

4240. Does this introduction of a fresh population bring with it so much wealth into the neighbourhood as to make up for the extra burthens occasioned by the increased number of poor that are brought into the district?—No; I consider that the iron portion of the mining population are the source of very great burthens to the parishes. I would observe that we have had a new town—almost a model town—built by Earl Granville, who has erected 145 cottages of a very good class, with every convenience attached to them; he employs from 1,400 to 1,500 hands; but such have been the fluctuations which have taken place, owing to the continual change of men, that it has been the worst class of property in the whole district as far as rates are concerned; I find that out of 145 houses, there are only 46 from which rates have been able to be collected, and in nine a portion of the rate only, leaving 90 totally unaccountable, without contributing a farthing of revenue in aid of the rate.

4241. From what cause does that arise?—From the continual changes that take place; the class of men who occupy them is such, that when the collector appears, they before his next call disappear.

4242. Have you tried the Small Tenements Act there?—No; there was an attempt made some years ago to bring it into operation; but only three persons were found to vote for its introduction, while there were nearly 900 against it; there was a poll taken, and that was the result; there was a very strong opposition to it.

4243. This cottage property, though built on a very improved plan, has not been profitable as far as rating goes?—No; it has been perfectly disastrous to the township. In the first place the public drainage had to be done at an expense of 250 *l.*, which that township had to bear; since then the township has had to bear the expense of lighting, paving, and scavenging that property; the effect has been perfectly disastrous; I am speaking now of the township of Rushton Grange, in the parish of Burslem.

4244. Your impression is, that if any party ought to pay, it is the parties who have this profitable mining property, is it not?—Yes; the damage done to the highways is very serious by the traffic of the ironstone; that causes very great dissatisfaction.

4245. Is that dissatisfaction manifested by public meetings, or in what way?—It has been manifested both at public meetings and by individual ratepayers, who have complained of it very strenuously; they complain, and I think very justly, that they have to bear the whole burthen, brought upon them by this mining population.

4246. Do you agree with the last witness, that it is an anomaly, that of all the mineral property, this is the only property that is exempt from rate?—Yes; and I think it is a very great injustice that it should be so. I know that many of the colliery proprietors entertain the same feeling; several of them have expressed, within the last month, to me their sense of the injustice of their being rated, while their neighbours are not rated.

4247. Mr. *Foster.*] You say that they expressed their dissatisfaction last month; had they done so previously?—Many times; but having in the last month gone over the whole of the collieries and ironstone works within the Wolstanton and Burslem Union, I have had more opportunities of coming into collision with them than I had previously.

4248. Can you state the gross amount paid for royalties on ironstone in the union?—The quantity of ironstone sent out of the district for the year ending the 31st of December 1856 was 337,511 tons, of which quantity 279,538 were out of this union, and the quantity I estimate that is used at the furnaces in the union annually is 104,000 tons, making a total of 383,538 tons, which exceeds the entire quantity of coals, and taking the average royalty at 1 *s.* a ton, it comes to a very large figure indeed. I know that some mines let as high as half-a-crown a ton; but at 1 *s.* per ton the amount of the royalty paid last year would be 19,176 *l.* 18 *s.*

4249. *Chairman.*] And that property in no way contributes to the poor-rate? No, not in any way.

4250. Mr. *Foster.*] Does Lord Granville pay on his blast furnaces and on his plant?

plant?—Unfortunately his blast furnaces and plant are not in our parish; and we generally find it to be the case, that wherever the furnaces are, the houses are planted in the adjoining parish. There is a new town built at Knutton, near to the Silverdale Works, which is in the parish of Wolstanton, while the entire works are in the parish of Keele.

4251. Mr. *Child.*] Is not Mr. Sneyd the largest proprietor of land in the parish of Wolstanton?—He is a large proprietor.

4252. Is not he the largest proprietor by far?—I should think not.

4253. Colonel *Pennant.*] If they were to increase the rate, it would increase the valuation of the adjoining parish, would it not?—The adjoining parish is purely agricultural, therefore they get the benefit of the works.

4254. Is Rushton Grange a township?—Yes.

4255. Is it exclusively a mining district?—No; there are mines under the whole of it, but they are not worked under the whole of it at present; there is a large manufacturing population, and some agricultural.

4256. Are the manufacturing population employed in the township?—A great number of them are.

4257. As to the mode of rating mines; you have spoken of the amount paid in royalties for a mine; should you propose, in the event of rating mines, to rate on that sum?—No; I should not propose to rate on that sum, but I think that the quantity got is a very fair criterion for estimating the value.

4258. You do not think that the royalty itself can be taken as the basis for the rating of mines?—No, I do not think it can, exactly.

4259. Have you any reason for the opinion you express that the royalty ought not to be taken as the basis for the rating of mines?—I think it would be excessive as compared with other classes of property in some parishes.

4260. You think that rating on the royalty would be excessive?—Yes, as compared with other property; the value is increased and is increasing; I think it would be out of proportion as compared with other property.

4261. May you not consider the royalty in point of fact a payment for the purchase of the mine?—No, I think not; and further, when the ironstone has been got, the land is destroyed; it ceases to be rateable, and is therefore valueless.

4262. As regards the mines themselves, the royalty is the purchase-money, is it not, for the mine, payable by instalments?—I look upon it that it is a rental paid for working it; I never heard it looked upon as the purchase of mines where a party has taken a lease.

4263. Are you aware that it is quite as frequent, if not more so, to take mines at so much per acre?—It is rarely done in North Staffordshire; there may be a case or two of the kind.

4264. But as a surveyor, you are aware, I suppose, that it is very commonly the case in large mining districts?—There are cases where it is taken by the acre, subject to an annual payment; I have known cases of that kind; it amounts to the same thing; it is generally understood what the mines will produce per acre, and they are let about the same price as if let by the ton.

4265. At all events, you would not levy the rate upon the full amount of the royalty?—That would depend upon circumstances; in some cases it would not be fair to levy on the full amount as compared with other property; it would depend a good deal upon the value of the property, and the mode in which it is assessed, especially in a district like ours, where there are so many kinds of property.

4266. *Chairman.*] Will you, if you please, continue the statement you were making just now as to the horse power and so on?—In Burslem, for coals, there is 277 horse power, and for ironstone 269; for pumping water, 285 horse power; the rateable value of the coal assessed to the poor being 2,454 *l.* 7 *s.* out of an assessment of 43,678 *l.* 12 *s.*; the total quantity of coal raised in both parishes is 315,121 tons, and of slack 174,905 tons; the total engine power for raising coal is 770 horse power, and for ironstone 1,124.

4267. Mr. *Child.*] Do you say it is not the practice to let or sell mines by the acre in North Staffordshire?—Rarely; the general practice is to let them by the ton; I know of some cases of the kind to which you allude; but they are rare.

4268. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Have you considered on what principle you would rate mines?—On the quantities raised; I think that is the fair way of assessing the

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value, per ton, comparatively to the other property, in the same way as coal mines are rated now.

4269. You would rate them on the same principle as those upon which coal mines are rated now?—Yes.

4270. You would make the usual deductions?—Yes; indeed I consider that coal mines are rated generally, at least they are in this union, at a very low figure; they are rated on the quantity; in the parish of Wolstanton they are rated at about 7 *d.* in the pound on coal and 3 *d.* in the pound on slack; that is taken as the rateable value, the gross amount multiplied by 7 *d.* for coals and 3 *d.* for slack; in Burslem the rate is about 5 *d.* for coal and 2½ *d.* for slack.

4271. Have any complaints been made, to your knowledge, by the coal proprietors of the principle upon which they are rated?—No; I have not heard of any; the only complaint that I have heard from coal proprietors is, that the ironstone proprietors are not rated, as well as themselves; it is a great injustice in some cases; there is one case that I know of, in Wolstanton parish, where there is one person who gets nothing but coal; he is largely rated for his colliery; an adjoining works have just commenced getting ironstone; the whole of the coal is taken down to the North Staffordshire Railway by a branch railway, constructed by the proprietor; in the other case, the produce of the mine is all carted down by carts, which travel eight or ten times a day, destroying two or three miles of road. The ironstone getter does not contribute a farthing to the poor or highway rate, and yet the coal proprietor pays from 60 *l.* to 100 *l.* a year to the highway rate alone.

4272. Colonel *Pennant.*] Does not the coal proprietor use the road?—No; he has laid the branch railway himself.

4273. Is he rated for that road?—No.

4274. Mr. *Cavendish.*] Are the ironstone owners laying down tramways for the purpose of their mines?—They are not rated for them if they do.

4275. But are they laying down tramways?—No.

4276. How do they rate the clay that is used in the pottery manufactories?—The principal portion of the clay that is used in the potteries comes from Cornwall, except the native clay, which is used for saggers, and things of that kind; that comes from open workings, all of which are rated.

4277. On what principle are they rated?—According to the quantity got.

4278. That is the principle on which you would rate the ironstone?—Yes, it is.

Jovis, 9° die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Spooner.	Mr. Cavendish.
Mr. Davey.	Mr. Colvile.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *John Prettyman Berkeley*, called in; and Examined.

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4279. *Chairman.*] YOU are a clergyman, resident in Cornwall?—Yes; I am Vicar of St. Cleer.

4280. In what union is that?—Liskeard.

4281. Do you belong to the Board of Guardians of Liskeard?—I have been a guardian between nine and ten years.

4282. Were you sent as a deputation on behalf of the ratepayers to attend at the first large Cornish meeting of landowners and speculators in mines, which was held in Truro in the year 1855?—Yes; I was sent there as a deputation by the Liskeard Board of Guardians.

4283. Your district embraces a new mining district, does it not?—Yes; St. Cleer

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Cleer may be considered at the present moment a most valuable mining district, and it has been so for the last 14 or 15 years, or perhaps more.

4284. How many parishes have you in your union?—I think 28; but I am not quite certain. I can give you a list of what may be termed the mining parishes. There is St. Cleer, Menheniott, St. Ives, Linkinhorne, Calstock. St. Neots, also, has been to a certain extent, but there is very little doing there now.

4285. Which parish is the richest in minerals at the present moment?—St. Cleer and Linkinhorne are the richest for copper, and Menheniott for lead.

4286. Take St. Cleer, if you please; tell what mines there are there now?—South Caradon, West Caradon, Craddock Moor, and Gonemena are making returns; and there are two or three others making no returns, which are worked to a small extent only.

4287. Are you aware at all what royalties are paid out of these mines to the owners of the soil?—Of course I cannot speak exactly to that, but I should think that those four mines must have returned within the last year nearly 6,000 *l.* to the lords.

4288. What are the royalties there?—I think about one-fifteenth; none of them exceed that, I believe. I am not sure whether South Caradon is at present one-fifteenth.

4289. What is the gross ratable value of your parish as it now appears upon the rate book?—The rate is 5,309 *l.* 17 *s.* 8 *d.* That was the last rate.

4290. You believe that the royalties amount to nearly 6,000 *l.* a year?—Yes.

4291. Do you think you would be safe in saying it is equal to the gross rate?—No; that which I have given is the net rate. The gross rate is more than seven thousand and odd pounds. One-fifth is taken off.

4292. How do they rate in your parish; do they rate in full, or how?—They take one-fifth off.

4293. Off all property?—Yes; off all property.

4294. Off tithes?—Yes.

4295. Do any of these mines pay to the poor's rate?—No; for some time South and West Caradon did contribute a certain amount. West Caradon did so until directly after the meeting in Truro, of which I spoke just now. Up to that time it contributed 100 *l.* a year; the parish consented to take that in lieu of rates, though we were aware that it was much less than we should have received, if it had been rated to the full extent. At that time a correspondence passed between me and the manager of West Caradon, and I will, if the Committee think proper, read that part of the letter, in which he gave his reasons for withdrawing. He stated that they had had a new set, by the terms of which they were exempt from being rated, and also confessed that they had thought that 100 *l.* per annum for rates was a just and fair sum for them to pay; but fearing that if a Bill then before Parliament should become the law they would be rated to a higher amount, they withdrew, as soon as their new set empowered them to do so, the payment they had formerly made, and said that if the parish could or would have undertaken not to charge the mine with more than 100 *l.* for rates in case the Bill should become the law, there would have been no objection to have continued the payment as a fair share of the parish burdens.

4296. Then that mine pays nothing now?—No; it has paid nothing since that date. They got the deed altered directly after the meeting at Truro.

4297. Do many accidents occur in your mines?—Last year there were three, in each case leaving a widow and family. They became in a very short period, within a month or two, dependent upon the parish for relief. I am wrong in saying that they became at once dependent upon the parish, because for the first 12 months of their widowhood they became chargeable upon the common fund; after that time they became chargeable upon the parish, and we were obliged to remove them, their removal costing us 60 *l.*

4298. Are there clubs in all those mines?—Connected with each mine there is a mine club, but that is only for accidents. I have made it a point, when miners have come before the Board of Guardians asking for relief, to put the question to them, since I found out that it was a matter of dispute, and in every case I have received this answer: "We can get nothing from the mine club; that is only for cases of accident."

4299. What is done if a miner gets into what is called a miner's consumption?—We have had some cases of that sort in St. Cleer, and they have not been maintained by the mine. At the same time, perhaps, you will allow me to

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observe that St. Cleer has been hitherto remarkably favoured from this circumstance; being a new mining district, it was only young men who came up there. I should suppose that not more than five per cent. of the miners there at the present moment are above 35 years of age.

4300. What do you anticipate by-and-by?—That as they become older they will break down and apply to us for assistance. I think that would be found to be the case on reference to some statistics which I have from the parish of Calstock, which is the oldest mining parish in our union.

4301. With regard to your highway rates, are they heavy?—Yes they are, as far as regards that part over which ores are drawn. At present, in St. Cleer, the greatest part of the ore is carried on the Liskeard and Caradon Railway; but, from the Mark Valley mine, in Linkinhorne parish, the ores, which were formerly carried through Calstock to the Tamar to be shipped, are now carried through Liskeard. They pass over two miles of our parish road, which cost us last year very nearly as much as the other 40 miles.

4302. And you have no help from any of the mines for that?—No.

4303. What are your statistics with regard to Calstock?—I sent a form to one of the parish officers of Calstock requesting him to fill it up for me with the poor-rate, for the five years preceding mining enterprise being carried on in Calstock. I find that during those five years the average rates varied from 655 *l.* to 1,073 *l.*, the average being about 840 *l.* The next poor-rates for the five years since the mines went to work, not immediately after, but previous to the law charging the irremovable poor to the common fund of the union, varied from 927 *l.* to 1,146 *l.*, the average being somewhere about 1,100 *l.* a year; between 1,000 *l.* and 1,100 *l.* I then get the poor-rate for the last five years to Michaelmas 1856; the average per year is 994 *l.* 4 *s.*; that is charged to the parish. Then, in addition to that, I have another return here which shows that, for miners, more than 150 *l.* a year is charged to the common fund of the union, or 3 *l.* a week.

4304. Notwithstanding the relief they get by the charge to the common fund, their average is still 150 *l.* a year more than it was in the five years ending in 1841?—Yes.

4305. That is in Calstock, where they take advantage, as they do in other parishes in Cornwall, of long leases drawn with a clause providing for a money payment, in order to evade the poor's-rate?—So I understand.

4306. It is a matter of self-defence, is it not, throughout Cornwall?—Yes; formerly it was not so, but of late many persons, who formerly paid rates on dues, finding that their neighbours gave up paying, have in self-defence drawn their sets in that way. I perfectly well recollect a landowner saying so at a meeting in Truro.

4307. Has the value of the landed property in your district been diminished by these mines or not, in your judgment?—I should say not.

4308. Not in any instance?—There are some small plots which miners take; and they, by their carrying on almost a system of market-gardening, and something in the dairy way, or what might be called basket produce, have increased in value to some extent.

4309. Taking your rateable property at 7,000 *l.*, how much out of that do you consider it to be enhanced in value?—I should not think that it amounted to 100 *l.* a year; if it was 200 *l.*, that I should say would be very much the outside of it.

4310. If I understand you rightly, with the exception of 100 *l.* or 200 *l.*, you do not fancy that the other property is enhanced in value?—No; I will mention to the Committee a circumstance which was stated to me a day or two ago: that at a sale of some property which took place two or three years ago in St. Cleer, it was stated with reference to value or rent of that estate, that there was a lease granted, in which there was a condition that from 10 to 15 per cent. was to be taken off the rent if a mine, which had been formerly worked under it, should go to work again; that is, that the rent should be reduced if the mine should go to work.

4311. The inference from that is, that if the mine were there, instead of its being a benefit, it would be an injury; is not that so?—Yes; and the reason is, that the miners are in the habit of making tracks and paths wherever they think proper to go; in fact, they are possessed with the idea, and they have told me so themselves, that they have a right (I suppose by the common law) to take the shortest way to their work they can find.

4312. That would only create a single path here and there; it would not be very wide, would it?—I know that between St. Cleer and Crow's Nest there is a path through five fields of a considerable length; more than a quarter of a mile.

I had

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I had the curiosity the other day to measure the width of that path, and I found that it averaged about 18 feet in width; it went right through the middle of the fields; the miners always walk abreast.

4313. Why do they do that?—I cannot say; perhaps it is because they are very ambitious and therefore go ahead, not liking anybody to go ahead of them.

4314. You do not think that the other property is enhanced in value at all by the presence of the mines?—No, I think not; I think that the produce of the parish has not been increased in value, except with regard to what I have called basket produce.

4315. Have the miners added at all to the rental of the parish by building?—Of course there has been very great increase of building, but very few of the houses have been built by the miners; in point of fact, as a body, the miners are not a saving class of men. In the first place, except where they get what is called a start, they are not I think by any means a well-paid body of men; 15*s.*, at the present rate of wages, are not mechanics' wages. I take it that miners as a body are rather badly paid than otherwise. The number of cottages in the parish built by miners is 131; the number of other cottages built in the parish is 401. I would remark, also, that of those cottages which have been built by miners a large proportion were built by men who were not miners originally, but who had practised economy as farm labourers, and had saved money.

4316. What is the general opinion as to the rating of royalties on mines in your neighbourhood?—The general opinion is in favour of rating them.

4317. You do not know from experience what would be the result of the cessation of mining operations?—We have not as yet had an opportunity of judging of that; but I have been informed by a person living in Beer Ferris, the other side of the Tamar, that when the mines there went down some years ago, the rates increased very rapidly indeed, to 1,300*l.* a year, instead of 600*l.*

4318. The able-bodied men, I suppose, would migrate?—Yes; leaving the weak and infirm behind.

4319. Do you hear many persons object to the rate?—The only persons I find objecting to the rate are mine agents and mine brokers; they, as a body, object to the rate, no doubt.

4320. Do you suppose that it would have the effect of stopping mining speculations if they were rated?—I should judge not, for this reason: in my neighbourhood I have been very active in this matter, whenever I get among them, therefore, they are round me in a minute; and I find that I get into a hornet's nest; they attack me directly about it. I find, however, that they all confess that if the measure is passed for rating the dues, it will ultimately come upon the adventurers, for this reason; that so anxious are they, and so anxious will they always be to have sets, that they will take them on any terms the lords choose to impose.

4321. Mr. *Spooner.*] Upon what principle would you rate the mines; would you take the royalties as the basis?—In the first instance, yes.

4322. Would you rate them upon the full royalty?—That opens a question which, I know, is a matter of considerable importance as to the corpus of the estate.

4323. Will you favour the Committee with your opinion upon that question?—I feel that it is a question of very considerable difficulty; because on the one hand there is a great population brought there, and, as a consequence of that, there is a great burthen thrown upon the parishes; but looking at the principle upon which rating is carried on, I should say that it would be fair to make some allowance in consideration of the fact, that the valuable part of the estate is yearly diminishing.

4324. In point of fact, the royalty is mixed up and consists both of the return of capital and of the profitable occupation?—Yes.

4325. And you would assess it as nearly as you could upon the principle of profitable occupation?—Yes; but bearing in mind this, that whereas the rent of a farm is supposed to be one-third of the annual produce, the returns of dues to the lord in mines vary from one-fifteenth to one-twentieth, so that, of course, the land is rated, as far as the annual production goes, to a much greater extent than mines could possibly be; that I take it must come in as an element in the calculation; of course that would still leave room for a very considerable reduction on the point which you have raised.

4326. Suppose we take the royalty at a certain given sum, and that that

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royalty ceases in the space of 20 years, the mine having been worked out: do you not conceive that it would be very unjust if during those 20 years they have paid upon the royalty to the poor's-rate, without having had any allowance made for the destruction of capital?—If you look at the destruction of capital it would be most decidedly unjust; but if you take the other side of the question, that is, the burthen which is brought upon the parish, which in some instances becomes a permanent burthen (witness the parishes in the neighbourhood of Redruth), you will come to a different conclusion. I think that in dealing with those conflicting interests we must of necessity come to a compromise between the two, and not carry the principle out strictly, and to its fullest extent.

4327. You have stated that there has been a great increase of building in your parish since the mines have been opened; what brought the building there?—Men looking for houses.

4328. Those houses were not built by the miners, were they?—Some of them were; but a great portion of them were built by masons, carpenters, and farmers, who had money to spare, and who employed it in that way.

4329. Those are houses which are built for the accommodation of the miners?—Yes.

4330. Then the opening of mines has had the effect of creating that property?—Yes.

4331. They pay a considerable rent, do they not?—Yes.

4332. And that rent is rated to the poor?—Yes; but you must take this into account: that, when those mines cease to be worked, those houses will be thrown upon the hands of the owners of them, or a great portion of them, and only enough of them will be retained for the infirm to live in, who will become not rate payers, but rate receivers.

4333. During the working of the mine, however, it does increase the rate, does it not?—Yes; and of course it lessens the amount which the mine would have to pay.

4334. You say you know an instance of a mine where the rate was to be reduced in case a mine was opened; was not that from a fear of the trespass that would be committed?—I believe it was, because it was considered that the working of the mine on the estate would lessen the value of that estate.

4335. By reason of the trespass that the miners coming to work there would occasion?—Yes.

4336. It was a question of trespass, and not a question as to its increasing the number of poor?—That may have been a portion of it; but I consider that the question referred to the injury done in the first instance.

4337. Is it your opinion that the value of the property out of the reach of trespass, but within the reach of the demand for the produce of the earth has not increased?—I do not think it has; we are governed as to prices by Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse, and not only so, but with respect to the article of flour, I know that the price of that is governed entirely by Mark-lane, for I myself have heard one of the largest flour dealers in our parish, who is engaged to a very considerable extent himself, make use of the expression, that he could not afford to do without a newspaper to give him the state of the markets.

4338. But still the number of miners who are brought into the parish must increase the consumption of the produce of the parish, must it not?—Yes, but not to such an extent as to increase the value of that produce; it would be very imperceptible, except as to what may be called basket produce, that is, vegetables; those things certainly would be increased in value.

4339. *Chairman.*] You are within reach of the markets of Devonport, Plymouth, and Stonehouse?—Yes; and to show that I am correct in my statement, I will mention that regraters, as they are called, pass through Liskeard, and go down into the mining districts, to the neighbourhood of Redruth and those places, to buy produce there, which is carried through Liskeard, and to Plymouth and Devonport, and the prices in that great mining district of Redruth rule below the price in my own neighbourhood.

4340. You have spoken of the miners getting what you call a start. When they get a start, is it not their ambition to have a cottage, generally, when they can?—I am sorry to say that very often their ambition is for the women to dress a little better, and for the men also to dress a little better, and live a little better; there are some instances, certainly, of the men being saving, but as a body they are not so.

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4341. When they do build cottages, those cottages, I suppose, are at once pounced upon by the assessor?—Immediately; I have no hesitation in saying that they feel that to be a very great grievance.

4342. They consider it a grievance that they are assessed, and that the dues are not?—Yes.

4343. Of the different persons who receive royalties there, who receives the largest royalty?—I should say the owner of South Caradon, the Rev. George P. Norris.

4344. Take South Caradon itself as a property; what is the nature of the land under which this mine is?—It is comparatively valueless.

4345. What is it worth an acre?—I should be sorry to have to put a price upon it.

4346. Is it worth 5 *s.* an acre?—No, not 1 *s.*, some portion of it; some of the lodes of South Caradon run into an estate belonging to Mr. Rogers.

4347. What has Mr. Norris been receiving on the average for the last 10 years from Caradon?—I should think it must come to 2,000 *l.* a year, or rather more. Of course I am not in a position to speak distinctly as to that matter.

4348. Is the land which is destroyed worth 5 *l.* an acre?—I should think not; it is a very rough hill.

4349. Do you think it fair or right that parties should be enabled to grant leases of profitable works, bringing in a population which casts a burthen on the parish, which leases should be so drawn as to make them free from all parochial taxes?—I think that there ought to be rates paid, the dues being the basis of the rating; but I am of opinion, though I was not always so, that the adventurers are the parties who must be rated.

4350. Either the lords or the adventurers must be rated; but of the two, you think it should be the adventurers?—Yes; that is in consequence of the anomaly which would otherwise be created, and also in consequence of the fact that the adventurers themselves invariably confess, that legislate as you may, they will be the parties made to pay.

4351. Do I understand you to say, that although you are an advocate for the rating of mines, you think that the absorption of the fee each year is a matter worthy of great consideration?—I think so.

4352. Mr. *Davey.*] That difficulty as to the absorption of the fee is not peculiar to copper mines; it applies to coal mines also, does it not?—I quite think that you must legislate for the coal mines as well; and I go further, and say that the coal mines would be most unjustly dealt with, and so would all other mines, if there was not an allowance made for the gradual absorption of the fee.

4353. *Chairman.*] Have you any open quarries in your district?—No; in the neighbouring parish of St. Neot's there are some.

4354. Mr. *Spooner.*] What description of quarries are they?—Slate.

4355. Are they assessed to the poor?—Yes. I would wish to draw the attention of the Committee to a return which I have here of Calstock, St. Ives, and Linkinhorne, those being mixed, or mining and agricultural parishes. I find that in Calstock the amount paid to miners, which amount is charged to the parish in the eleventh week of the quarter, was 3 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.*; to agriculturists the same amount. Charged to the common fund of the union: miners, 2 *l.* 14 *s.*; agriculturists, 17 *s.* 10 *d.*; so that whereas the miners take up nearly 6 *l.*, in fact within 2 *d.*, the agricultural labourers take up very little more than 4 *l.* But taking the four parishes together I find the weekly amount paid to miners is 12 *l.* 0 *s.* 1 *d.*, and to the agricultural labourers 15 *l.*, nearly one-half being paid to the miners.

4356. As I understand you, the parties who have the labour of these miners —who have their strength, and I may say their health—in no way contribute to the poor's-rate?—No.

4357. And that you consider an injustice?—Yes.

Mr. *Henry Higman*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. Higman.*

4358. *Chairman.*] YOU reside in the neighbourhood of Saint Austell?—Yes.

4359. What is your occupation?—I am a china clay merchant principally.

4360. That is now become a matter of large merchandise, is it not?—Yes; in that immediate district.

4361. What quantity do you ship from your own quarries, or what quantity is shipped

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shipped in the district?—We calculate that about 100,000 tons are shipped from the district, in round numbers, in the course of the year.

4362. Is the clay that is got in your neighbourhood of a valuable kind?—There are various qualities.

4363. Where do you ship your clay principally?—At the ports of Par, Charlestown, and Pentewan principally.

4364. Is it an increasing article of commerce?—Yes; there has been a little reaction the last two or three years, during the war.

4365. What countries take off your clay?—Chiefly the home markets; Staffordshire and other markets in England take the principal supply; there is a large export trade also to various parts of the Continent.

4366. Is the clay decomposed granite, or what is it?—Yes, decomposed granite.

4367. What is the per-centage of clay?—About one-fifth; there are four or five tons of refuse to one ton of pure clay.

4368. You have always been rated to the poor, have you not?—Yes; always, I believe.

4369. Are you largely rated or not?—We are very excessively rated we consider; we pay a very high rate for dues on the value of the article, and we are rated on those dues.

4370. Can you give us the average dues in your district?—About 3 *s.* a ton, or one-fourth of the value of the article when raised on the work; before it is carted away.

4371. Do you mean to say that you are rated 25 per cent. on the value of the article?—Yes; it will average that.

4372. Are there any dues paid on any mineral property that can be at all compared with that?—I never heard of any approaching to it.

4373. Mr. *Spooner.*] The dues are 3 *s.* a ton, and the value of the article on the work is 12 *s.*?—Yes.

4374. *Chairman.*] Then they rate you on 3 *s.*?—Yes; if we return 1,000 tons per annum from the work, it is rated at 150 *l.*

4375. Have you any statistics to show the number of men employed upon the clay works, upon the mines, and in agriculture, and so on?—Yes.

4376. We will take the last three years; in the parish of St. Austell, what was the population?—Nearly 11,000; it was 10,750 according to the census of 1851.

4377. What was your acreage?—Twelve thousand acres.

4378. What is the number of your inhabited houses?—Two thousand one hundred.

4379. What was the relief given to the population in 1855; take the clay labourers and families first of all; what would they amount to?—For the year ending at Lady-day 1855, clay labourers, 9 males, 9 females, and 31 children, that is 49 in all, received parochial relief.

4380. Then gives us the miners and their families for the same year?—Forty-one males, two hundred and eighteen females, and three hundred and forty-one children.

4381. Then the agricultural labourers?—One hundred and fifty-four males, three hundred and thirty-nine females, and two hundred and forty-seven children.

4382. Can you give us the figures for the years 1855, 1856, and 1857?—One hundred and seventy-one clay labourers and their families, men, women, and children; miners' families 1,899; agricultural labourers and others (that includes artisans and widows) 2,296 for three years ending Lady-day 1857.

4383. Having got the various proportions of the families, can you give us an idea of the number of each class who were upon the poor-rates?—No; I have no relative information as to that; we consider that of the total population in St. Austell parish about one-fourth is a mining population. I have a return of the number of clay labourers in five parishes; out of a population of 30,000 in the five parishes, we have 1,700 clay labourers.

4384. Do you know the amount of the poor-rate in the parish of St. Austell?—The total rateable value of the property is 24,000 *l.* The average poor and highway-rate amounts to 4 *s.* in the pound, or about 5,000 *l.* or 6,000 *l.* per annum.

4385. Do the clay works pay to the highway-rate?—Yes.

4386. And to the poor's-rate?—Yes.

4387. What

4387. What amount do you pay?—In St. Austell to about one-seventh of the whole parish.

4388. How are you with reference to the population?—There are only in the five parishes about 1,700 clay labourers.

4389. Out of how many?—Out of 30,000.

4390. Out of the five parishes, can you say what you pay in proportion with reference to the rates?—In St. Austell we pay one-seventh of the whole rateable property.

4391. You have given us the relative separate proportion of the five parishes; will you be kind enough to give us the whole assessment?—I think it would amount to about one-fourth on the whole of St. Austell, St. Stephens, St. Dennis, St. Mewan and Roche.

4392. The clay works, I understand you to say, pay one-fourth of the whole?—Yes; the total rateable value of these parishes is 44,000*l.*, and the china-clay and stone works are assessed in 10,400*l.*, which is as nearly as possible one-fourth.

4393. Mr. *Spooner.*] Are they assessed at that?—Yes.

4394. Are they assessed upon the whole amount of royalty paid?—Yes; it is considered as rent.

4395. *Chairman.*] There is no deduction whatever?—No; not for repairs even to our necessary out-buildings.

4396. Mr. *Spooner.*] They allow deductions upon the farm rents, do they not?—Yes.

4397. How much per cent.?—For St. Austell the farm property is considered to be rated to about the extent of its rental, but an allowance is made for buildings; and on house property generally there is an allowance of 25 per cent.

4398. Has the rate ever been appealed against?—Some few years ago the question was tried at the quarter sessions, as to the liability of clay works; and then a compromise was effected, under which 10 per cent was allowed off the amount paid as dues, and that has prevailed up to Lady-day 1856; the parish authorities have been informed that such an allowance was not legal, and since then it has been discontinued.

4399. *Chairman.*] You have given us five parishes, in which you have 1,700 men employed; can you say how many miners are employed?—We consider that in St. Austell they form about one-fourth part of the whole population.

4400. We will take St. Austell parish; how many clay workers have you got there?—Perhaps about half the total number would be in that parish; not more than 800.

4401. How many miners have you there?—Three thousand, including their families.

4402. The rest are agriculturists?—Yes, and mechanics, &c.

4403. What mines have you had the last few years in St. Austell parish?—I have a list here of some mines which are selling ore regularly. There are seven or eight that I could enumerate where they are selling ore monthly. There is one very extensive mine, called the Polgooth Mine, which has been recently abandoned.

4404. What did that mine use to sell in the course of the year?—I do not know; the returns varied considerably.

4405. That mine has been lately abandoned, has it?—Yes; within the present year.

4406. Have you many sick and infirm miners left behind in the parish in consequence of that?—I do not think there has been any great increase as yet.

4407. I mean in consequence of the abandonment of that Polgooth Mine?—No, I think not; I think there has been very little extra burthen thrown on the parish as yet.

4408. What does that arise from?—I think that many of the men have removed to other districts; there is a great demand for labour in Cornwall at present.

4409. Do those mines contribute anything to the poor?—None of them.

4410. Are they rated to the poor in St. Austell?—No.

4411. Do all their leases provide for money payments?—Yes.

4412. Are you an adventurer in mines?—Yes.

4413. Have you ever heard the question discussed as to the mode of drawing the leases?—Yes; that has been a matter very generally discussed lately.

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4414. You take care, the moment you have a lease granted, to have it drawn providing for money payments?—Yes.

4415. But within your recollection it was the usual practice for them to pay to the poor-rates?—Yes; at one time the mines paid.

4416. All of them?—Yes.

4417. Within your recollection all the mines have paid?—I cannot say that they all paid, because some of the mines were not working at that time.

4418. What was the practice at the earliest time you can recollect?—That the mines were rated.

4419. As a body?—Yes.

4420. Without any exception?—I know of none.

4421. What is the practice now?—I find that, in the parish of St. Austell, there is no mine rated.

4422. Gradually one mine after another has been dropping off; the owner of one mine has began to evade the rates by the mode in which he has had his lease drawn, and then another has done the same thing in self-defence?—Yes.

4423. Then you not only pay for your own poor, but you are paying for the miners?—We are paying one-seventh of the whole rates of the parish.

4424. Do you not consider that that is a very great hardship?—We see no argument in favour of not rating mines, that cannot be brought forward in favour of not rating clay works.

4425. Is it a matter of complaint especially by the clay merchants?—Yes; it has become now so serious a burthen, and the competition in clay is so great, that it is a matter of serious consequence.

4426. You are rated higher than any other description of mineral property, are you not, on account of your dues?—Yes.

4427. But you are somewhat to blame, are you not, for paying such high dues?—That is the custom in that part of the country; it is almost the only china-clay found in any part of England.

4428. And there is a great demand for it?—Yes.

4429. Have you ever given your attention to the question of rating?—I have; if it were admitted that all this property ought to be rated, we might arrive at a solution of the matter by taking a per-centage off the amount of the royalty paid, and assess on that per-centage mines and all similar properties.

4430. You would not class them all under one head, would you?—No; I would have a per-centage for all clays in the kingdom, and on all coal, ironstone, and other minerals.

4431. You would take into consideration the localities and the different expenses, would you not?—Yes; I would make it depend on the nature and circumstances of the article.

4432. You would class them under four or five heads?—Yes.

4433. You would take the royalties as the basis in the case of coal, iron, and copper?—Yes; so that if it were made a legislative enactment, there could be no question between the parochial authorities and the occupiers of these properties.

4434. Would you make a considerable reduction?—I should be inclined to take off a very large per-centage from the royalties paid in the case of all these mines; I differ from the previous evidence in that respect.

4435. I understand it to be your belief that, as a whole, the mines confer a considerable benefit upon the neighbourhood in which they are placed?—Indirectly they benefit every description of trade, and they benefit the farmers as well.

4436. Do you think that the farms are enhanced in value in consequence of the presence of the mines?—Looking at the weekly list of prices, I find that St. Austell is one of the highest markets in the county, and that I can only ascribe to the labour in the immediate district.

4437. I suppose that arises from your having some profitable mines in the neighbourhood, does it not?—No; there is not one mine in the neighbourhood yielding a profit.

4438. What do you call the Par Consols?—That does not belong to us; St. Blazey is more the market for that.

4439. Are you aware that the Par Consols is at this moment paying very large dividends?—Yes.

4440. Can you state what was the last dividend?—Yes.

4441. Are you a shareholder?—No, unfortunately I am not.

4442. From your experience, should you say that the St. Austell market is as high

high a market as there is to be found in any part of Cornwall?—Yes, for every description of farm produce. Mr. *H. Higman.* 9 July 1857.

4443. Do you attribute that to the large mining population that there is there?—The mining and clay population.

4444. Can you say anything as to the rentals of property?—When a farm is to let, it is a very common thing to say it is contiguous to mines and clay works, and that it therefore derives great benefit from cartage and so on.

4445. They send out their carts and horses, do they?—Yes; from the works to the ports, or to some railway, to convey the goods to the ports.

4446. What is the distance of your largest work to the nearest tramroad or railway?—Upon the whole, it must average about four miles to the shipping port.

4447. I do not quite understand why that 10 per cent., which was allowed to you as a reduction on the royalties paid, is now made in full?—I believe it has been stated to the overseers in the parish that it is not legal to make that allowance; that the whole rate could be quashed in consequence of that illegality; and now, as that has been prevailing in the parish of Saint Austell, they have attempted it in the neighbouring parishes.

4448. If I understand you correctly, if you pay, be it ever so heavy a royalty, they take that royalty as a guide, and charge you in full?—On the net amount that we pay to the lord we are assessed.

4449. Does the lord himself make any reductions?—None whatever; it is inserted in our sets, that we are to pay all parochial rates.

4450. You have a fixed rental?—Yes; on a work on which we pay, for instance, as dues, 200*l.* a year, the minimum rent reserved would be perhaps 25*l.* Whether we work or not, we are assessed on the minimum rent reserved in the sett.

4451. If you do not raise a single ton of clay, they assess you on the minimum rent in full?—Yes.

4452. Mr. *Davey.*] You say you are an adventurer also in metallic mines?—Yes.

4453. Have you ever heard that since the alteration of the rate the lord gets higher dues than he got before?—I think that when setts are applied for, the question of poor-rate seldom forms an element in the calculation.

4454. I mean whether, in consequence of the substitution of a money payment for a payment in kind, the lord takes advantage, and gets higher dues?—I have heard it stated that the lord obtains higher dues.

4455. Generally?—Generally; I never applied for a sett myself.

4456. Therefore it would make very little difference to the adventurers whether they paid in the shape of rates, or in the shape of higher dues?—It would be of very little consequence to them; it will be a matter of bargain by-and-by.

4457. Mr. *Ridley.*] Do you say, that in consequence of an opinion which the overseers took, that this deduction, if continued, would make the whole rate illegal, they have re-imposed the 10 per cent.?—Yes.

4458. Have you not appealed against that?—We have not appealed; it was only at Lady-day 1856 that the new arrangement commenced, and we have been watching the issue of this Committee, and hoping that it would form a question for them; if we were to appeal, we should only be fighting against ourselves, as we should have to pay the costs as defendants and as plaintiffs: we have to pay one-seventh as it is.

4459. You say that in the case of the Polgooth Mine, which has just been finished up, the increase of paupers has not been great, if any?—It has not been very great, if any; it has only been abandoned a few months.

4460. Have most of the men found employment?—Yes, they have found employment in other mines.

4461. Do they take their families with them?—They remove when they get steady employment; the men go to another district, and when they obtain steady employment, they will settle down there with their families.

4462. Generally speaking, they do not become a permanent charge upon the union when a mine is shut up?—Except in the case of widows and orphans.

4463. *Chairman.*] With regard to the Polgooth Mine, of which you have spoken, although it was a very old mine, it had been reopened at a comparatively recent date, had it not?—Yes.

4464. Is it a deep mine?—Yes.

4465. Therefore, it is most likely that young men, and not old men, would go

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to work there?—Yes; but still some old men who know the neighbourhood well, would find employment there.

4466. I suppose that when an old mine is put to work, and the workings are deep, you have generally a batch of young men?—That obtains in all cases; young men, generally speaking, take the greatest amount of labour.

4467. And it is not very likely, is it, that, after working for 12 years only, you would have any large number of old men?—No; and there has been a great deal of emigration lately, and the demand for labour has increased in consequence.

4468. Have you any iron mines in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

4469. Do you know the amount of iron shipped?—At one time it was very large; almost equal to the clay.

4470. Have they ever paid poor-rates?—No, nor highway rates either.

4471. What has cut up your roads?—The iron mines cut up the roads as much as we do.

4472. Is your highway rate very high?—In St. Austell it is about 8 *d.* in the pound; but we have to pass through turnpike gates also, in the case of almost all the works in which I am interested.

4473. I understand you to say that the iron mine has never contributed either to the poor or to the highway rate?—Not that I am aware of.

4474. Do you think it a great anomaly that clay should pay, and that iron and copper should not?—Yes, I do.

4475. Do you pay any church-rate?—Yes.

4476. Mr. *Spooner.*] Is there any coal mine in your parish?—No.

4477. Does the clay lie at a pretty uniform depth?—Pretty nearly so; in some cases we have never found the bottom, and in others we have.

4478. Can you tell us how long it takes to work out an acre of clay?—A long period of years.

4479. *Chairman.*] What is the average depth of the clay in your work?—It is about six fathoms; we do not always work to the bottom; we work by levels.

4480. Mr. *Spooner.*] Does it take a considerable number of years to work a clay work down to where it ceases to be profitable?—Yes.

4481. *Chairman.*] Is your heading very expensive?—Yes; removing "burthen," as it is termed, is one of the most expensive operations; it costs us about 3 *s.* per cubic fathom to remove it.

4482. Mr. *Davey.*] How deep is that?—It runs about eight or ten feet; the price depends upon the texture of the ground.

4483. *Chairman.*] What are your claymen's wages?—From 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* a month; but a clayman's day's work is not eight hours upon the average.

4484. How does he spend the remainder of the day?—A great number of them are small leaseholders, and they have a few acres of land. We have attempted in vain to induce them to work ten hours, but they frequently work over-time, and make a day and a half. At this season of the year we require them to work over-work.

4485. Do they work at so much per yard?—No; it is generally day-work; there is not much contract work.

4486. Do you require a certain quantity of clay to be got by them in the eight hours?—No; we cannot put it in that way. The foreman of the work has to see that they attend to their work regularly.

4487. What do you give them an hour for their extra work?—We pay them at the same rate as they are paid for their work during the day. We generally find that the most active men take the contract work for removing the burthen.

4488. Are there any other remarks that you desire to make?—Not that I am aware of.

4489. Is there much skill required in your working?—No; a little experience is required in some of the operations.

4490. Do you take boys at the age of 14 or 15?—Yes; and they work their way up to full men's wages.

4491. It is not necessary for them to begin very young?—No; they come with their parents, and work.

Mr. *Edward Stocker*, called in; and Examined.

4492. *Chairman.*] YOU are a china clay merchant?—Yes.

4493. Living in St. Austell?—Yes.

4494. Your works are in the neighbouring parish principally, are they not?—Yes; they are principally in St. Stephen's.

4495. Who is the largest proprietor of mine and clay land in your district?—Lady Granville has a very large tract of land in St. Stephen's parish.

4496. You have a lease under her?—We have. We have several clay leases; but the whole of Lady Granville's in St. Stephen's parish.

4497. What is the minimum rent that you pay to Lady Granville?—£. 1,350 a year.

4498. Do you run up beyond that sometimes?—Yes; for the present seven years, 1,450 *l.*

4499. I suppose you calculate in this way; that after having raised a certain quantity, you are to pay so much per ton for all that you raise beyond?—We pay at per ton, averaging from 1 *s.* to 6 *s.* on our clays, according to quality; but if our dues exceed 1,350 *l.*, then we pay upon the tonnage.

4500. What is the rateable value of your parish?—The total rateable value is 9,989 *l.*; the proportion due to clay-works is 4,633 *l.*, or nearly one-half.

4501. You pay nearly one-half?—We and other clay merchants pay nearly one-half of the whole of the rates.

4502. What is the population employed in your clay-works in St. Stephen's?—The number of clay labourers in St. Stephen's are about 700.

4503. I believe the population of St. Stephen's is 2,711?—Yes.

4504. Are about 700 of those employed in the clay-works?—Yes.

4505. Have you any iron-mines in St. Stephen's?—Yes; several have been lately opened.

4506. And is it likely to prove a valuable property?—They are working it very briskly now; several men are employed, and a great deal of iron is being carried away.

4507. Are they worked in veins, or are they beds of iron?—They are beds and veins, both, I think; but they are principally in lodes, just the same as tin or copper, not quite so regular.

4508. Are they open or close workings?—Principally close; some of them are open.

4509. Are any of them rated to the poor?—None of them are rated to the poor, or to the highways.

4510. Do they make much use of the highway in the shape of carriage?—Yes; some of them are carrying from five to eight or nine miles over the roads, both turnpike and parish, but principally parish roads.

4511. From the material being heavy, the roads, I suppose, are a good deal cut up by the traffic?—Yes; they are doing great injury to the roads.

4512. But they do not pay at all either to the poor or to the highway rate?—No.

4513. Do you feel that that is a hardship or not?—Yes, we feel that it is very hard upon the clay companies.

4514. What are your rates per ton, taking the average?—We have not been rated at per ton: I would never give returns to the parish.

4515. Then how do they rate you now?—For the last seven years they have allowed us something like from 15 to 20 per cent. off our dues.

4516. What is the state of things now?—During the last quarter, because we would make no return, they have raised our rates, which before were on 1,400 *l.*, to 2,650 *l.*; in January 1857, it was on 1,400 *l.*, and in April it was 2,650 *l.*

4517. They have increased the amount from 1,400 *l.* to 2,650 *l.*?—Yes.

4518. What has been the basis of that calculation?—They have made no calculation at all; they had no power to do so.

4519. They have ascertained, I suppose, what you pay for royalty?—I refused to make any return, and they summoned me before the magistrates, by whom the rate was overturned for the present, in consequence of no name being on the rate-book. It was again brought forward on Tuesday last; I was summoned to appear,

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and to take with me all my books, vouchers, accounts, deeds, and so on, to show my returns, and the prices we were selling at.

4520. Have you got that summons here?—Yes (*producing the paper*); it is such a summons as was never seen before, I think; it was sent to me requiring me to go to the petty sessions on Tuesday last.

4521. Mr. *Spooner.*] Did you attend?—I did.

4522. What was the result?—We were in attendance all day; and it was adjourned to Tuesday week.

4523. Have you taken any legal advice upon the subject?—We had an attorney in attendance.

4524. What was his opinion as to the legality of this summons?—That we shall quash the rate.

4525. But what does he think of the legality of the summons?—He thinks it is an illegal one.

4526. What other mines have you got in St. Stephen's?—There are tin mines.

4527. Do they pay to the poor's rate?—No; they pay no rates at all.

4528. Your iron mines pay no rates?—No.

4529. What other description of property have you there; have you any granite quarries?—There are granite quarries paying no rates, while others are rated high, that is, the china-stone, which is granite in reality.

4530. That is what you call china-stone?—Yes; that is rated high, while the other is left free; it is not much granite that is sent from that neighbourhood.

4531. Have you any china-stone taken as from a mine at all?—No, not as from a mine; it is all open work.

4532. Have you any accidents in your iron mine?—I do not think we have had many as yet; but the workers in them are more liable to accidents than the clay-workers are; clay manufacturing is a very healthy employment, being all open working, or nearly all.

4533. Do you know at all what the iron pays in the way of royalty?—It used to pay 6 *d.* a ton, but, in consequence of no rates being paid, it is now advanced to 9 *d.* in some cases, and in others 1 *s.*

4534. What is the value of it upon the spot?—On board it would make about 12 *s.* a ton; I should think it would be worth about 7 *s.* or 8 *s.* on the work.

4535. The highest royalty, then, would be about one-eighth part of the value of it?—Yes.

4536. What do you pay on clay?—About a quarter part of the value, I think.

4537. The royalty on clay is double what it is on iron, is it not?—Yes.

4538. Do you feel much aggrieved at being rated in the way you are?—It is that that has caused us to act in the way in which we have acted; we think that we ought not to be in the hands of a few parish officers.

4539. They rate you as they like?—Yes; and our only remedy is to appeal.

4540. Have you ever tried the effect of an appeal?—This appeal will be tried, unless they reduce our rate very considerably.

4541. Is this the first appeal that you have tried?—Yes.

4542. You have always compromised the matter before, have you not?—Yes, always.

4543. Are all the clay works profitable in your district?—I should think that in the neighbourhood of St. Austell, and the whole of that district, about one-half of them yield next to no profit; on the average 1 *s.* a ton would be the extent of the profit.

4544. The profit then is very small?—Very small indeed; there are some good clays which will yield more profit.

4545. Do you mean that in many instances, while you are only making 1 *s.* a ton profit, you are paying to the poor-rates on 3 *s.* a ton?—Yes.

4546. Three shillings a ton being your royalty?—Yes, 3 *s.*, and 3 *s.* 6 *d.*; we have one instance in which the lord's dues are 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton; the work has been in operation about four years; they have paid to the poor-rates and highway-rates, while upon every ton raised by them during that time a loss of from 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* has been sustained.

4547. As yet they have been rated upon the full amount of the royalties paid?—Upon the full amount of the royalties paid. I went through a work a short time since with the agent, and valued everything on the work, and found that the

the loss had been considerable, although they were paying still to the full extent of the lord's dues.

4548. *Chairman.*] I suppose that is rather a rare case?—Yes, it is a rare case.

4549. Does it require much capital to open a clay work?—To open a clay work of a moderate size would require about 1,000 *l.* capital.

4550. Is the payment for clay prompt or not?—It averages a twelvemonth's credit; it takes about 12 months to manufacture it on the average, and about 12 months' credit is given after it is shipped.

4551. From the time you commence working, to the time when your clay becomes marketable, 12 months elapse?—It will average 12 months.

4552. You require a summer sun to dry it, do you not?—Yes; all the clay we are washing now, will remain in pits and pans till about March, April, May, and June next year; there are a few instances in which they dry with coal, and then the clay can be returned quicker.

4553. If I understand you, you have two modes of drying; one mode is artificial, and the other is by the sun?—Yes, but principally by the sun.

4554. It requires a year, you say, to make it fit for the market?—Yes.

4555. You must have a summer sun?—Yes.

4556. Do I understand you to say, that when once you have got it into the market, 12 months elapse before you get your money?—Yes, it will average a twelvemonth's credit.

4557. Is it paid for then by bill, or in what way?—Sometimes by bill, and sometimes by cash, but more frequently by bills than by cash.

4558. Is it generally a twelvemonth's bill?—A twelvemonth's running account; there is no bill given till the twelvemonth is up, generally speaking.

4559. Mr. *Spooner.*] What is the date of the bill generally?—The bills vary; some of them are payable in two or three months, and some beyond that.

4560. You give 15 months' credit then, in point of fact?—Yes.

4561. *Chairman.*] Have you turned your attention at all to the question as to the mode in which, in your opinion, mines and quarries should be rated?—Yes, I have thought over it a great deal, in consequence of being so exposed to the caprice of overseers. I think it should be taken out of their hands and rated, not upon the dues, because that would be exceedingly hard; the clay works, in St. Stephen's parish especially, are working out fast; they are not like the clay works in the neighbourhood of St. Austell; they run much deeper in St. Austell than they do in St. Stephen's; we unbottom the whole of our works in St. Stephen's, except one.

4562. Which is the best clay that is got, in St. Stephen's or St. Austell?—The St. Stephen's generally.

4563. It is more easily worked, is it not?—About the same.

4564. The layer is thinner?—Yes, we get down to granite generally.

4565. How would you rate clay?—I think it should be a per-centage on clay and iron; a per-centage on the dues paid.

4566. Do you think there should be a large per-centage taken off?—I think there should be something taken off in proportion to the liability; that a much greater per-centage should be taken off in the case of the clay works than in the case of iron or copper, because the men are not so much exposed to accident, or to become burthensome to the parish; our clay labourers are only about one-quarter part of the paupers in St. Stephen's parish, though we pay half the rates.

4567. Although your paupers amount to only one-quarter, you pay one-half?—Yes.

4568. Then not only do you complain of the mode in which you are rated, but of the unfair exemptions which are made in favour of other parties?—Yes.

4569. Is there any other remark that you would wish to make to the Committee?—No, I am not aware of any.

4570. What is the acreage value of the clay lands?—About 6*s.*; in St. Stephen's nearly the whole of the clay land has been streamed, and I believe also the principal part of the land in the neighbourhood of St. Austell and Roche.

4571. Do you agree with the last witness, that in St. Stephen's the land not worked for clay, but occupied by farmers, is much enhanced in value in consequence of the presence of miners there?—The small farms in the neighbourhood

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of St. Stephen's are very much improved in value; the farmers are giving an increased rent for them in consequence of the clay works being carried on pretty largely there.

4572. Is that because they have the cartage?—Yes; we employ perhaps from 100 to 150 clay carts and waggons; they are not always at work for us, but they are constantly employed in carrying clay and stone to different ports, some four, some five, and some seven miles off.

Martis, 14° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Colvile.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Foster.	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. Ridley.	Mr. Michael Williams.
Mr. Davey.	

NICHOLAS KENDAL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Warington Smyth*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *W. Smyth.*
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4573. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are anxious to refer to some part of your evidence given on a former occasion, which you are under the impression has been contradicted by some evidence that has been given before this Committee?—It was suggested that I made some statements which were inaccurate with respect to the accidents stated to have occurred at the Restormel Mine. I am now prepared, having had the books of the mine examined, to state exactly what accidents have occurred there during the past six years, and in what manner the club monies have been subscribed for the purpose of alleviating the effects of accidents.

4574. I understand you fancy that Mr. Sawle was inaccurate in his statement; do you think that is so?—He asserted that a very considerable burden had been placed upon the parish in consequence of the number of accidents at the Restormel Mine. Now, as regards the heaviness of the burden, I may state that the poor-rates of Lanlivery, on the average of four years past, have been 2 *s.* in the pound, and I am informed that the property is rated at two-thirds of its annual value; so that it appears the burden is not very excessive.

4575. From whence did you get that information?—I obtained it through the clerk of the mine, who obtained it from one of the authorities who has to do with the rating.

4576. I happen to know a great deal about it, and I think that is hardly accurate?—He has given me the rating of the three parishes of Lanlivery, Lostwithiel, and Saint Winnow.

4577. As chairman of the Board of Guardians, every parish went through my hands, and therefore I am sure that that is not quite an accurate statement; it is not rated to the full. I should say that Lanlivery was rated about from 15 to 20 per cent. You make it 25 per cent., do you not?—It would be variable. Lanlivery and Saint Winnow were given at two-thirds, and Lostwithiel at nearly the full value. I may state that out of the 124 persons employed in the mine, 53 reside in Lanlivery, 48 in Lostwithiel, and 20 in Saint Winnow.

4578. But you have employed a much larger number of hands at times, have you not?—I think we have employed very few more than the present number.

4579. How stands the fact as far as the burden of the parish goes in consequence of the accidents in the mine?—After an examination of the books, the accountant stated that he did not know of any person who was made chargeable to the parish, through accident or from anything occurring in mine within the last six years; he found that since the 1st of January 1852, 88 cases of hurt or accident had occurred, for which there had been paid from the club 189 *l.* 7 *s.*; nearly

nearly all of these accidents were very trifling, such as hurting a finger, hand, or foot, disabling a man from working for a few days, or even a week or two.

4580. There have been no deaths at all, have there?—During the last six years there has been no such accident as to incapacitate a man entirely from work, except the premature explosion of a blast in May 1854, by which two men lost their sight; those men have both been provided for by the mine.

4581. What do you say as to the families of the men?—They have received 7 *s.* per week from the club; one of them is keeping a shop with the assistance of his wife in the parish of Lanivet, and is doing well; the other has been recently assisted by a loan from the adventurers of the mine, to open a small shop in Lostwithiel.

4582. Do you mean that the family has been taken care of in the Lanlivery parish?—A little more than six years ago a man was killed in the mine, whose family received 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per week from the parish; the funeral expenses were paid by the adventurers, and a present was made by them to the widow; but since that time nothing has occurred to make widows or children chargeable to the parish.

4583. Do you say that the club fund has enabled all parties who have met with accidents to keep off the parish?—It would appear so; the subscriptions to the club and doctor's fund amount to 98 *l.* 14 *s.* per annum.

4584. With regard to the sudden dismissal of men at times; do you think that that also is an inaccurate statement?—I believe it was asserted that in 1847 a great number of men were thrown on the union from the Restormel Mine; but from the account we have of the dues, it would appear that the dues were higher, and that there was a larger amount received by the duchy than there had been for several years before; so that I have no reason to believe that any great number were thrown upon the union.

4585. Do you happen to know what the dues were in that year?—£. 749 in that year, which is higher than they have been ever since.

4586. What is that per ton?—That was at a 15th.

4587. Have you any other remarks which you wish to make to the Committee?—I would only say, that as this mine is paying at present about 6,000 *l.* per annum for labour, it seems scarcely possible that it should do the parish a great deal of injury; and I may state that the duchy is as much concerned there in the surface as in the mineral, the surface being of more value to the duchy than the mineral, and that the principal tenant of the duchy is by no means actuated by those feelings of hostility to the mine which Mr. Sawle represented that he was.

4588. Mr. Short is the new tenant?—He is.

4589. Who was the late tenant?—I was not acquainted with the late tenant.

4590. I think with regard to the late tenant Mr. Sawle was accurate, was he not?—I think he rather alluded to his own feelings as a ratepayer, whereas he was only the tenant of the duchy as regarded a house, and was not an occupier of land. Mr. Short has a large farm.

4591. Do you mean to say that you think that that is perfectly consistent with what you stated, that the mine was a boon rather to the neighbourhood than otherwise?—On further inquiry I have no reason to alter that opinion.

4592. Are you aware as to whether the farmers have had great difficulty in finding labourers in that district?—I believe that on occasions when there is a large demand for men in the mines, they may complain that they cannot so easily get farm labourers.

4593. Do you fancy that the farms let for a higher rent in consequence of the mine being there?—I would not say so in the case of the Restormel Mine; but in the case of many of the mining districts it is so.

4594. As far as the Restormel Mine goes, do you think it has any effect upon the rent?—With regard to special fields, the mine is improving them by improving the condition of the land.

4595. Do you know an instance of a single man working upon the iron mine there who is improving a single acre of land?—The lessees of the mine themselves are doing so.

4596. In what way are they improving them?—Raising by several feet the level of that marshy land which intervened between the mouth of the adit level and the river.

4597. That is entirely independent of the mine, is it not?—It is in connexion with the mine.

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4598. What use do they make of it?—I believe it is for grazing purposes.

4599. You mean the land near the river?—The land between the road and the river; the whole of that meadow.

4600. Is there any other point which you wish to speak to?—With respect to the manor of Calstock, I was asked several questions, the details of which I could not give, as for instance, whether the land had been sold at a cheap rate in consequence of the minerals being reserved. I can now state that that manor which contained in it about 2,200 acres, was sold for 5,036 *l.* 17 *s.* 3½ *d.*; 3,523 *l.* 18 *s.* 1½ *d.* was paid for the Harewood Estate, including the residence of the late Lord-lieutenant, Sir William Trelawney, with the timber, which was about 200 acres; and 1,523 *l.* was paid for the purchase of the old conventionary rents, and something like 2,000 acres of wastrel was added, as it were, into the bargain, nothing whatever having been received for it. Of that wastrel, a good portion is becoming very valuable, by having buildings erected upon it. I leave it to be judged how much the value of this cheaply purchased land would be enhanced by a portion of the poor-rates being thrown upon the mines.

4601. I believe you wish to make some remark as to throwing the burthen on the owners of the surface by making a money payment a condition in their leases; that is so, is it not; all the duchy leases are drawn providing for money payments, are they not?—They are so; but it was stated that it was about 1840. At that time no leases whatever were drawn; they were not drawn till about the year 1843. For many hundred years past the duchy minerals had been leased to individuals in a lump, a fine being paid at intervals, and then a small money-rent being reserved, so that it was the lessees for the time who had to do with the dues.

4602. At the same time, all your leases now are drawn with a view to abating the poor-rates. It is a money-payment, is it not?—Yes, it is found to be more convenient.

4603. You have changed your leases, have you not?—No.

4604. The fact is, then, you have never changed the leases?—Never.

4605. You began with these leases, did you?—Yes, in 1843.

4606. Then you began with a money payment?—Yes.

4607. Notwithstanding that, in some instances, you did pay to the poor-rates?—There were instances, such as stream works.

4608. But with regard to mines, did you at once take advantage of the power that that money payment gave you?—Yes, at once. In 1843 the whole of the leases were drawn in that way.

4609. From one end of the duchy to the other you pay no poor-rates, then?—Except for the stream works; I may add that it should be recollected that the duchy has as much interest in the land as in the minerals. I have been speaking about minerals. But the duchy is about the largest landowner in the county, so that they are as much interested in the land as in the minerals.

4610. Have you any mineral property out of Cornwall?—There is Dartmoor, and certain collieries in Somersetshire.

4611. Have you any in Exmoor?—No; but I have lately visited Exmoor with reference to some property in which the minerals are reserved by the Crown, for the Woods and Forests. No lease has been granted of those Crown minerals: The mining at Exmoor is quite in a state of infancy; the condition, in fact, of the mining there is very analogous to the conditions of certain mining districts in Cornwall many hundred years ago.

4612. In what way?—You have a very large area of land of very low value, and persons have been commencing a few mining trials. The population is extremely thin, and it is very much desired, both by the farmers of the neighbourhood and by the lord and his agents, to encourage mining for the purpose partly of bringing in a population who may cultivate the waste lands.

4613. Therefore, you think that the mining, as far as Exmoor goes, would be a boon rather than otherwise?—I am quite confident, from having visited it twice, and from the result of conversations with different people, that they are extremely anxious for the success of the mines there.

4614. How are your wages in that neighbourhood, as regards the labouring classes?—Agricultural labourers are paid lower on an average, I believe, than they are further west; but the miners of course are paid rather higher. I have examined all the trials made there, for the purpose of seeing how they bore upon the minerals reserved by the Crown, and I find that very great expectations were raised

raised there, which have been partly disappointed, from the want of knowledge of the nature of the lodes, and from the limited extent of the explorations.

4615. Your opinion with regard to that district is a favourable one?—I think that the trials have proved that there are very valuable lodes there, of an extremely fine description of ore.

4616. Is it hematite, or what?—Brown hematite principally, with red ore and some sparry iron.

4617. You fancy that it is very desirable to have mines in that neighbourhood; that it raises the value of the land there?—Yes, without doubt; it is only to be regretted that on all sides the trials hitherto made have been totally insufficient, considering the promising nature of the minerals.

4618. Am I to understand from you generally that you are of the same opinion that you were some time ago; you have seen the evidence, have you not?—I have seen a good deal of the evidence, and I have not had any reason to alter my opinion in any way. Having seen that district, and visited two or three other new districts, I adhere to my former opinion entirely; but I should like especially to press upon the Committee the great difference that ought to be made between minerals raised from lodes and stratified deposits.

4619. You would classify the different metals, would you?—Certainly.

4620. How would you classify them; you would not go too far?—I would make this principal division, including on the one side those which occur in lodes, more or less vertical deposits, or capricious deposits, as we know them to be, and on the other side stratified deposits, which, generally speaking, attain a great degree of regularity.

4621. I suppose you have looked to the great discoveries in South Staffordshire?—I am acquainted with those beds of ironstone; it is as certain a thing as when you buy a cheese; you may be slightly disappointed, but the risk is never comparable to that of mining on lodes.

4622. They are subject to faults, and things of that kind?—There may be faults; but we know the bed can be recovered on the other side.

4623. You can calculate pretty fairly?—Yes.

4624. You hold that these iron deposits are more certain than any other class of mineral property?—I would class the coal with the iron; and in most instances the iron is more sure to be profitable than the coal beds.

4625. Then I suppose, as it is a more profitable property, you would tax it higher; is that your opinion?—If it is thought desirable to tax it at all.

4626. Granted that it is desirable, is that your opinion?—Yes.

4627. How would you class them; would you take these iron deposits and coal deposits as one; how could you go next; would you take the copper and tin mines as another?—There are some few deposits which are exceptional, and which you can scarcely reduce within the definition of either, such as those which are well kown in Lancashire and Whitehaven as yielding iron ores; but otherwise the veins and lodes containing the coal, or tin, or copper, belong to one category.

4628. Can you see any reason why coal should be taxed to the poor, and ironstone should not be taxed at all. Is it not a great anomaly, so far as it goes?—The reason is this, that when the tax was first levied on coal, the stratified ironstone in the coal measures was not worked.

4629. Is it not an anomaly that the one should be taxed and the other should not be taxed?—I think it is an anomaly, because they are both worked under precisely the same circumstances in most instances.

4630. You have given your attention to the subject of the rating of mines generally, and you have found that they are on a very uncertain basis in every district, have you not?—There is no doubt whatever as to the uncertainty of the present basis.

4631. There is a sort of running fight between the overseer and the owners of mineral property, is there not?—It is so with respect to the collieries.

4632. Would it not be very desirable to put it on some firm and uniform basis?—As regards collieries I think it would be very desirable.

4633. Have you any other points which you would wish to suggest to the Committee?—There is only one additional point which I might mention. I was asked several questions with respect to the migratory character of the miners, whether when a mine is abandoned suddenly they commonly leave, and leave a burden on the parish. We have had in the duchy a remarkable instance of the sudden abandonment of a mine in consequence of the mine being drowned; it was

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the South Tamar Mine; there were about 200 persons occupied, and within five weeks from the time of the accident every one of them had been drafted off to employments in other mines. I think that is rather a striking case.

4634. No doubt it is a striking case; at the same time you are aware that there never was a time in which miners were in such demand as they were then?—I am aware of that.

4635. You are aware, are you not, that it happened at a very fortunate time; you are aware that there never was a time so fortunate for these poor men. Even in your experience, which is much shorter than mine, you will recollect that there were times when they were not got off so rapidly?—Yes.

4636. Who is your informant at the Restormel Mine?—The accountant and the captain; they have examined and been through the whole of the books.

4637. I think it is due to Mr. Sawle to say, that when he made the statement here, I, who lived in the neighbourhood, was very much impressed with the notion that he was right in some of his statements; but, of course, the information that you got from this agent makes one hesitate to say that he is right?—Rumours of accidents have reached me, but it appears that no one has been seriously injured.

4638. It seems that the vein opens 10, 12, or 14 feet?—I have seen it as wide as 16 feet.

4639. Is it necessary to support it with timber?—No; they take a much safer course.

4640. What do they do?—They carry a level four or five fathoms distant from the lode, from which they drive cross-cuts at intervals, and they fill up the excavations with attle.

4641. So that, on the whole, you do not consider it a dangerous mine?—No, it is not specially dangerous, when skilfully worked.

4642. Where the miners are provided for, there is enough for them, without depending on the parish?—I believe so, from the statements that have been given me.

Joseph Pease, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Pease, Esq.

4643. Mr. *Ridley.*] I BELIEVE you reside near Darlington, in the county of Durham?—Yes, at Southend, in the county of Durham.

4644. You, I believe, represented one of the divisions of the county of Durham?—Yes, for nearly 10 years.

4645. And have since that time been very largely occupied in mining transactions in various ways?—I have.

4646. Both in ironstone mines and in coal mines?—Yes.

4647. And I believe you are very largely interested in the limestone and freestone quarries?—Yes.

4648. How many collieries have you open and at work in which you are interested?—I think, nine or ten.

4649. Are you working those mines as the lessee only?—To a very great extent, as lessee; I have small freeholds, but they are very limited in extent as compared with the leaseholds.

4650. I will ask you, if you please, a few questions first about the coal mines. The coal mines in which you are interested are, I believe, some of the largest coal mines in the county of Durham, taking them in the whole, are they not?—The aggregate produce is large, but the mines themselves are not on so large a scale as some of those in the northern division of the county; mine are almost exclusively in the southern division.

4651. Will you tell me, if you please, whether you work these coal mines under long leases?—The leases vary from 21 years to 40 or 50 years.

4652. Upon what principle does the rating of coal mines proceed in that part of the county in which you are engaged?—We do not apprehend that there is any principle at all; it is always a matter of compromise with the overseers, or generally with the solicitors to the parish, assisted by one or more surveyors. In some cases they rate us by ascertaining our fixed rent; in other cases, by ascertaining our tale rent, that is, the additional quantity over and above and added to the fixed rent; in other cases they take the mine on its sales with reference to what they apprehend to be the profits; and in some cases they include our coking ovens, which form a very large part of the plant of our business; in some cases they include our cottages and gardens, which are very numerous; so that there is

no

no one principle whatever pursued in two adjoining parishes; in both it would be equally a matter of compromise, without any fixed data that we can discover.

4653. They generally assess the rate taking the whole thing as a group, do they?—Our apprehension is, that they form an idea of what the colliery can afford to pay; and on a party appealing to the quarter sessions, there ensues an expensive arbitration, which costs the mine owner a great deal of trouble, takes the agents from their duty, and leads necessarily to great expenses. They exact the full amount which they think it is possible to exact, themselves scarcely knowing upon what data they are proceeding.

4654. Have you ever yourself opened any mine?—Yes; I think I have opened nearly the whole of the mines that I am now working.

4655. There is a very considerable expense, is there not, attending the opening of mines?—It varies very materially; some of our seams are very shallow, and some are much deeper.

4656. Is there not also considerable risk in opening coal mines; is it not sometimes the case that when you sink a shaft you find you have not sunk it in the right place?—Invariably the risk is very considerable.

4657. So that the risk extends to coal mines as well as to lead and other mines, does it not?—Yes; so far as ascertaining the deposits of mineral veins, they are more liable to intersection and interruption than our larger deposits certainly, though perhaps I might make exceptions with regard to red ores or hematites, which it is more difficult to trace; but the larger argillaceous beds are very easily wrought, and are less liable to disturbance.

4658. What deductions are made in your part of Durham when they come to assess you to the poor's rate?—I really do not think I can answer that question; I find that in every parish they make different deductions.

4659. In fact, the anomaly of it extends, and the principle of rating extends to the deductions they make upon that anomalous principle?—The real prevailing idea in the cause seems to be the prosperity of the undertaking; if the officials think it is a poor undertaking to the adventurer, they are much easier with him, although the quantity raised is large; but if he is working under favourable circumstances, they endeavour to extract the highest possible rate they can get from him.

4660. I believe you are the owner of the surface lands; you farm, do you not?—Yes, pretty extensively.

4661. Do you think, upon the whole, as far as your knowledge extends in coal mining operations in South Durham, that the agricultural land has been largely increased in value owing to the opening of the coal mines?—Yes; I think it has been very largely increased in value.

4662. To what is that increase attributable, do you think?—To a great extent, in consequence of having a good market at home. During the bad times, the farms would not pay at all, because there was no market in their immediate proximity; I think that is one of the first advantages. Instead of making butter and cheese to compete with foreign produce, they have a market at home for new milk. Again, with reference to other produce, there is scarcely anything that I cannot dispose of at the best possible market price. My own consumption of horse provender has cost me for the last twelve months, 11,000*l.* sterling: say, hay, 500 tons; oats, 2,000,000 lbs. (two million pounds weight).

4663. Corn is bought by the weight there, is it not?—We always say that we will take measure with weight. I find, on comparing the prices with the prices in the London market, that I am actually paying, both for hay and oats, the price quoted in London, by which I ascertain that the farmers are remarkably well off for a market.

4664. Is the population of that part of the country very abundant now, or is it rather irregular?—The labour market is understocked. On my farms I often find it very difficult to get good labourers. The mining wages are better; we are frequently very short of hands.

4665. I believe the mining trade is considerably extending in that part of the world, is it not?—Yes, both coal and ironstone.

4666. That extension has been gradually taking place for the last 10 years or more, has it not?—Yes; for upwards of that period as respects coal.

4667. Can you state what is the difference in the rating in that country within that period of time?—The alteration in the rating has been extremely small. Confining myself to the coal mines, the rating of the whole of the coal mines together

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together does not exceed 1 *s.* 5 *d.* in the pound; some are rated as low as 3 *d.*; the highest is 2 *s.* 5 *d.*, but that is where a town population comes in with a mine population. I have a striking instance in one township; I pay rates as low as 5 *d.*; in another township near Bishops Auckland, which was recently a poor and languishing town, I pay as high as 2 *s.* 10 *d.*; but the average of the whole nine or 10 mines is 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, and that does not appear to me, on looking back for the last 10 years, to have undergone any material change. The highway-rates are the same. The smaller townships are about 4 *d*, and the larger townships are as high as 1 *s.* 2 *d.*, till we come again to Bishops Auckland, which has a larger extent of township roads, and there they have run up as high in one year as 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

4668. Mr. *Davey.*] Then, in fact, the highway-rate is as large as the amount of the poor-rate?—It was in that year 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for the highway-rate, and 2 *s.* 10 *d.* for the poor-rate, but that is a very extreme case.

4669. Mr. *Ridley.*] You pay church-rates?—Yes.

4670. And what are called improvement rates?—Yes, there are improvement rates and county rates; and where we come within the range of the Health of Towns Act, we have an additional rate also for that.

4671. And all these rates are assessed, not upon any very general and well-known principle, but upon a very anomalous state of the law?—The battle is fought upon the poor-rates; the surveyors of the highways, the churchwardens, and the magistrates being the court of appeal, knowing that there would be an appeal if the poor-rate is correct, are satisfied to take their county and other police rate upon the same scale as the poor-rate, or nearly so.

4672. With regard to your pit population, what provisions have you for cases of sickness or accident occurring to the pitmen?—There are clubs at some of the collieries; I have only one that I am aware of, (if it be still in existence,) where the plan was to subscribe one-fourth out of three-fourths for their families; that includes wives and children. I do not think that that worked well. As regards accidents, we find the medical man. There is also what is called "a gathering," which amounts variously, according to the character of the accident of the sufferer and the size of the mine, from 40 *s.* to 10 *l.* or 12 *l.*; and as long as any man is unable to work, he receives 5 *s.* a week from the owner of the mine as smart-money, as it is called.

4673. The club-money does not interfere with the smart-money, does it?—No.

4674. As regards his cottage, does he pay any rent for that?—No. I have between 1,000 and 1,200 freehold cottages of my own. We find him his coals, and often a garden with pigstye; also schooling for the children; and charge him 6 *d.* a fortnight for the leading of the coal to his door.

4675. *Chairman.*] And you charge him no rent for his cottage?—Only nominally; and there are some of them rated from 3 *l.* to 5 *l.* each; the 6 *d.* includes all generally.

4676. Mr. *Ridley.*] You pay that?—The owner pays that; there are cases in which they allow the pitmen to pay their own rates.

4677. Then, supposing a coal mine in your part of the world is worked out and shut up, what becomes of the population, generally speaking; do they migrate, or what do they do?—I have no case before me now in which, by an irruption of gas or water, a mine has been suddenly closed; a languishing mine is always gradually forsaken; whenever a mine is getting worked out, or is not working very prosperously, the day's works are gradually reduced, and the best men go; so that it is a very gradual operation.

4678. Would you say that in such cases the mining population remain on the land, and become a burden to the poor-rate, or do they migrate?—The families go away altogether; you may see rows of houses that are unoccupied, and which are at last taken down.

4679. What is your opinion on the subject of rating mines at all?—I do not think that it ultimately affects my pocket as lessee, but I have a strong opinion that the rating of minerals is most impolitic.

4680. As a general principle?—As a general principle, with regard to the large trade of the country.

4681. You look upon it in that light; as one of the great principles of trade and commerce in this country?—I have always looked upon it as peculiar in consequence of its being a tax on what I take to be 70 or 80 per cent. of the labour of the lowest class; a tax which I hold to be very inexpedient in this country.

I think

I think it has a very strong relation to the brick duty, which was as opposite to good policy as any duty that was ever imposed.

4682. But as coal mines are rated, and as the rating of coal mines is to be continued, do you think it ought to be applied to other kinds of mines also?—I admit it is a perfect anomaly to charge coal mines exclusively to the rates; I see no principle in that.

4683. But in extending that principle, you would say we ought to provide that the rating should be upon some fixed and well-acknowledged principle?—There could not be a greater boon conferred than to put the rating upon some defined principle; it would be to us a great relief. The mode now in operation sets us against those with whom we continually meet, and places our concerns on a most vexatious footing.

4684. As you have given your attention to the subject a good deal, will you state, if you please, upon what principle you would place the rating of these coal and other mines?—I am rated, perhaps, for the mine in one township; I have my railroad in another township, and I have my shipping places in another township; each of those townships endeavouring to assume that the larger amount of profit is got in that township. I should like therefore to have the coals rated as a whole with fixed principles; but the real principle is to rate upon the rent. A gentleman showed me the evidence given by an honourable Member of the House, Mr. Schneider, which was to capitalize the colliery, and to pay upon that. I have applied that to my rating, and I find that it would be slightly in my favour, but it would be a wonderful relief to me as a principle. If I am paying 3,000 *l.* a year, that in ten years is 30,000 *l.* If you would rate me at 900 *l.*, taking the adjuncts in the way that I have spoken of, it would come to what I should probably, in the average of years, pay.

4685. In rating upon that principle, what deduction should you make from the rent?—If I took it at three per cent., I should not make any deduction for contingencies; under ordinary circumstances, and at five per cent., I should make a larger deduction. I pay, perhaps, at this moment 20,000 *l.* a year rent, and have calculated on this plan.

4686. Mr. *Davey.*] You would include in your calculation the deduction for the consumption of the corpus of the estate?—Yes; but I have spoken to it on principle, as false to tax the sale of the estate as a whole or in detail.

4687. I mean it would include that?—I have stated that I do not approve of the rating of minerals any more than of yards of building land.

4688. Mr. *Ridley.*] Did you hear the witness who gave evidence just before you did?—Yes; I listened very attentively to his evidence, but I heard very indistinctly.

4689. That witness stated that in laying down a principle for the rating of mines, he thought the mines ought to be classified under certain heads. I think he mentioned two or three heads. Coal and iron mines under one head, and lead and tin mines under another?—I could not draw any such distinction; it might arise from my ignorance of the peculiar circumstances affecting metallic lodes or veins. I take it that the market is open to me to invest my capital in any branch of mining; if the mine is bad and abandoned, there is not in any case a corpus to pay upon; in whatever branch of mining I succeed, there is a corpus which can be rated. I do not think the relative results, examined as these must be year by year, need be compared. A colliery in the county of Durham has cost 300,000 *l.* sterling before the coal is got, and I do not think that or any mine ought to be rated without something is realised. It is impossible to draw a conclusion as to the relative result.

4690. You take the royalty as the basis every year?—I take the royalty as the basis every year. Our system is such, if I may be allowed to explain it to the Committee, as to insure to the life-tenant or the tenant a steady income. There is a fixed rent; that fixed rent is frequently not one-fifth part of the whole rent; and therefore an inquiry would necessarily arise, how much you have worked over and above the fixed rent. If I work, my rent is due; my rate follows.

4691. I wish to take you from the coal mines into that large Cleveland ironstone district. I believe you are also very largely interested in that?—Yes; I work a large quantity of ironstone there.

4692. How long is it since the district was opened?—On what may be called really an extensive scale, it may be said to have been opened about five or six years ago.

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4693. At first it was all open working, was it not?—At first it was all open working or quarry working.

4694. You have now begun to get it by mining?—Now, a large proportion is obtained by close work or mining.

4695. Upon that you are not rated?—We are not rated upon the close work or mining; that is, the argillaceous beds.

4696. What is the population, can you say at all, that is employed in that great district of the Cleveland ironstone?—I should think there would be now upwards of 3,000 men and lads employed. I think that I have about 800 or 900. I may have rather more, perhaps.

4697. That is a district which is not likely to be worked out?—No; it is very extensive.

4698. More extensive perhaps than you are at present aware?—It may be so; wherever an investigation has taken place the beds seem to exist in their originally discovered thickness.

4699. Are you able to state whether the value of the land has increased since the time of the opening of the works?—It has very considerably increased, both household property and lands. The best farms in the country are chiefly grass. I gave, I think it was about four or five years' rent premium to let me have such; and I offered my neighbour recently 7,500*l.* for a property that he gave 5,000*l.* for, and he refused it.

4700. Where did the population come from?—The better wages, as compared with the agricultural wages, have brought a very respectable class of agricultural labourers and men that were thrown out of employment by the diminution of railroad enterprise; and we always receive a considerable influx of labourers from Scotland and Ireland. The wages are very good.

4701. Have the rates increased?—No; one principal township in which the mines are belongs altogether to the Earl of Zetland. The poor-rate, in 1847, was 10*d.*; in 1848, it was 1*s.* 2*d.*; in 1849, 1*s.*; and in 1850, 9*d.* I have it in 1853 as 10*d.*; 1854, 1*s.*; in 1855, 10*d.*; and in 1856, 1*s.* I understand that this year it will be 10*d.* again. Then, again, in the township which is the property of the Crown, and one or two other landowners, on running over the list I find they have been worked five years; I find it is 8*d.*, 11*d.*, 10*d.*, and 8*d.*, 7*d.*, and 6*d.*; and this year it is 5*d.*, probably. Last year it was 6*d.* I have about 500 men employed there.

4702. I believe there is a very considerable importation of food from different districts, for the purpose of feeding this population in the Cleveland ironstone district?—Yes. The Tees did export butter and cheese. Cattle were sent to Yorkshire and to the Tyne, to the great markets of Sunderland and Newcastle, but we are now obliged to import produce; oats, butter, cheese, and everything.

4703. What provision have you in your ironstone districts as regards relief in cases of accident; do the observations that you have made relative to coal mining apply also to your ironstone districts?—In the mines of which I am lessee it is nearly identical; that is to say, we do not take the cottages at present, but we give assistance. I think that has arisen from local difficulties; some of the estates are entailed, and where the leases are short, the lessee hesitates to build cottages.

4704. Are the exports of the mining districts with which you are connected increasing very much?—As regards minerals, they are, to a very great extent; that is to say, the ironstone, iron, &c. As regards coal, the shipments have very greatly decreased, the consumption of coal being so extensive for the manufacture of iron. Then, again, the coal that was formerly shipped as coal is now taken by rail in very great quantities to the south in the shape of coke. Very recently I furnished 200,000 or 300,000 tons of coals made into coke.

4705. The ironstone having been rated to the poor as long as it continued to be worked as an open quarry, is it not the case that there can be no great reason why the mines should not be subject to be rated to the poor in the same way as the quarries?—It is not, perhaps, a full and proper reason; but whilst I am destroying the surface by the quarry work, I am reducing the rateable property in the parish; whereas the moment I go underground I cease to interfere with the rateable surface: therefore, as I said before, there is a distinction, though it cannot be taken to be as full and ample.

4706. You would say that, as regards ironstone, now that you come to work the mine, it should be rated to the poor, if the coal continues to be rated?—I do not see how I can draw a distinction between one and the other.

4707. In both cases you would lay down such a principle as would prevent the corpus of the estate being rated?—I think it might be so done, at least in appearance.

4708. You look at it more as a determinable annuity, and rated in that light?—Yes, and as an introduction of rating profits, under the name of rent.

4709. I should like to ask you a question or two before I conclude as to the character of the mining population; we have had some evidence before the Committee on that subject, and I should like to ask you, if you please, what is the general character of the mining population that you are connected with, both in the coal and ironstone mines; are they quiet or uproarious?—The ironstone men are very industrious and very well-behaved. One of the magistrates, a clergyman, spoke to me, stating that although they had contemplated leaving their parishes, feeling that they should have a very different class of men to deal with, they had found a great improvement both with regard to attendance at church and in the general good order of the parish; the fact is, that the rules laid down are very strict.

4710. So that the getting together of a mining population has not led to any very perceptible increase, if any, upon the rates paid for the punishment of criminals and offenders?—I think not at all; the colliers, as a class, are very greatly improved; intemperance is their besetting sin; but generally speaking, I think there is no ground to complain; there is great difficulty in keeping them sober, as I have said before.

4711. As regards offences against personal property, they are not open to reproach, are they?—Not at all, compared with the other population of the district.

4712. What age do your boys begin to work at?—We cannot take them below ten; we set them to gather out the pyrites, dirt, and foreign matter, from either the stone or the coal; they afterwards go down to open and shut the doors (trappers they are called, or ventilating boys), who open and shut the doors to keep the currents of air distinct; then they become drivers of ponies, and then of horses; as they become stronger they assist in the getting of coal, and then in the hewing of it; the amount of money which is brought by them into a cottage, where there is a family, is very large.

4713. *Chairman.*] Do I understand you to say that in the Cleveland district all the mines with which you are connected have been opened within the last few years?—Yes; within the last six years.

4714. Is there any coal in that district?—No; there are no coal mines of any value within 30 miles of it.

4715. You have had no increase, as I understand you, in the poor's-rates since these mines have been opened?—No; they have lessened.

4716. How do you account for this; you commenced with the open quarry working, on which you paid rates; and now your workings are close workings; how do you account for the increase in the poor's-rate; what has made up the difference?—All the lands round about there have increased in value; the lowest estimate I have from my farming bailiff is six per cent. The household property has increased from 30 to 80 per cent. All our cottages pay, and all our clamps pay, full rates.

4717. In fact, the property is so raised in value that the poor-rates have actually increased; the rate in the pound has not increased, but your property has very much increased in value, and you pay so much in the pound to the poor's-rate; of course your poor's-rate must virtually have increased a great deal?—Yes, if the rate remain the same; but it was 1*s.* 2*d.*, and is now 10*d.*

4718. What is the rateable value now?—The rateable value is now 1,532*l.*; it was nearly 1,000*l.*; the value has risen, the poundage is reduced.

4719. That is not a large parish?—No; I can give you a larger parish.

4720. Then the fact is, your properties change hands a good deal?—The tenants have changed more than the owners. The owners are expecting still higher prices for their lands. I think that a number of the tenants did not fall into the new habits.

4721. They did not fall into the new habit of paying higher rent?—No; there were men who preferred out of the way places; but there has been a great readiness on the part of enterprising farmers to cut out that kind of men.

4722. Mr. *Ridley.*] There was a new market created?—Yes; nobody but a farmer keeping strict accounts can tell the difference between a home and distant market.

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4723. *Chairman.*] When you came into that district, and opened up these Cleveland ironstone mines, a great many respectable men were agricultural labourers, were they not; at what wages?—Yes; I have the return of my wages; 15*s.* a week, with so much milk and coals, and something in addition towards the rent of the cottage, with potatoes and fuel.

4724. Are you aware what it was prior to that?—Twelve shillings was the full rate.

4725. Mr. *Fortescue.*] With these other advantages?—No, I think without many of them; I always find it worth while to give extra wages for better men.

4726. *Chairman.*] Notwithstanding the increased price of labour that a farmer has to pay, in consequence of having a new market and selling at a higher price, he is more than repaid for the extra cost in the way of maintaining the poor?—I think he is; he does not find that he has any extra cost at all; I am not pretending to say that the case might not arise; but Lord Zetland, who is a very large owner, allows the rent nominally to remain, receiving or allowing a percentage on the increased or decreased value of wheat.

4727. Are the highway rates high?—They are not in most cases; in the Cleveland iron district it is 7*d.*, 8*d.*, 9*d.*, 9*d.*, 7*d.*, and 6*d.*

4728. Take Cleveland for a moment?—I think they are as high as 1*s.* in one parish.

4729. That falls on the parishes?—Yes.

4730. You are not rated at all on the ironstone mines, are you?—Yes, so far as they are open, and the plant; for instance, the furnaces are rated. The furnaces are calculated thus: the furnaces cost 5,000*l.* sterling, and there is 1,000*l.* for attendant outlay; say, 6,000*l.*; that at 4 per cent. would make 240*l.*, and when you cast off one-fifth, you rate the furnace at 200*l.* net.

4731. That is the mode of calculation?—Yes; that is similar to the plan I should like for the mines; but I go on rent, not on costs.

4732. Highway rates, as far as ironstone goes, are not levied?—The close working is entirely exempt, not the quarry.

4733. Are the police-rates increased in that neighbourhood since they have increased in the Cleveland district?—I apprehend they have not been, but now must be. We only got a rural police this year; the magistrates have hesitated for a long time; but under the late Bill, they have given us a police for Yorkshire North Riding.

4734. They have increased in consequence of the increased number of the mining population?—Yes, it may be one reason.

4735. Then the highway-rate, the police-rate and the poor-rate will fall principally on the agriculturist and on your plant?—Yes.

4736. I think you have stated that although you do not approve of the rating of mines generally, you cannot understand why the close working iron mine is exempt?—No, I see no principle in it still; I think it is a very important question for this country, and I am free to mention it, because I know the forbearance of Committees in making such inquiries. At this time we really do not know where to get wool. My brother, the honourable Member for Durham, who is the head of a large firm, scarcely knows where to get wool. I am very nearly allied to people in the cotton trade, who do not know where to get cotton; and in any disturbance in or with Russia, people would not know where to get flax or hemp. Our minerals are our resource; and I have been surprised to see how the increase of exports in iron and coals have tallied with the increased imports of cereals and food. The published official tables show a wonderful coincidence. This is most important and advantageous to Britain.

4737. Would not the reduction obtained by non-rating be as fairly claimed as an advantage to the agricultural labourer and farmer as well?—If they go on the principle, that I am to have three rates on my land, it is not so; in the one case, in the mines, we pay 80 per cent. labour, and in the other 25 per cent., including taxes, manure, and everything. The labour in mine produce is as 80 to 25.

4738. Do you think that all mines ought to be exempt?—It is a matter of perfect indifference to me except as an Englishman; but at the same time it would be a very serious question whether I am to be screwed to a public rate which I cannot escape, or to throw myself upon the landlord by saying I cannot work at this rate; I can no longer pay you 3,000*l.* rent; I am quite fast to the rate, and probably to a higher impost, owing to the scarcity of labour and the difficulties of the times. My landlord will employ policy and discretion. I think rates on all mines bad.

4739. Taking

4739. Taking the mineral districts of the whole of England, because I have an impression that it is not confined to one district, do you infer that the question of poor-rates would materially affect the working of mines generally; do you think that parties, generally speaking, who are making an application for leases of mineral property, take into consideration and into calculation, to a very large amount, the question of poor-rates?—In every calculation that I make before I take a mine, I reduce the outgoings from the interest of my capital, and the repair of my saddlery to a decimal; when I am anticipating profits, if there is a margin of 1,000*l.*, I will not touch it; but if there is a margin of 2,000*l.*, I will: therefore give a case in which the taxation destroys the margin, the enterprise of the country is injured by so much; but if it is a question of the payment of 5*d.* in the pound, or 10*d.* in townships, certainly not at this moment; if it were a 5*s.* rate it were different.

4740. It has been urged by other persons here, that if you were to apply the poor-rate to other mines, you would very largely interfere with the fair and legitimate enterprise of the country. I ask whether you think that is the fact?—Not when things are going on well, as we are rated.

4741. Do you know of any coal mines of any importance which have been closed in consequence of being rated to the poor?—No.

4742. Then I would ask you, taking your iron mines, have they not been much more profitable than coal mines?—No; we have recently had a fair trade in both. I do not know which is better; we have had a terrible time; mining has been a very unproductive source of enterprise; but that has not been the case for the last four or five years.

4743. Is it not fair to infer, as you have no instance in which a coal mine has been stopped in consequence of being rated to the poor, that if other mines were rated to the poor, some arrangement would be made with the lessor or the lessee, so that they might pay poor-rates?—I think it would be the destruction of the lord's rent in some cases. If I pay 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* rates, I must have a very fine trade if I can pay it without feeling it. If profits decline that sum, the lord's rent would be gone.

4744. Mr. *Davey.*] Do you think that the proposal of rating all mines would have any effect with regard to those clubs or liberal allowances which the owners of mines are said to give to their workpeople?—I think it would operate. It is, I was going to say, rather a metaphysical question. My experience is decidedly that the more I do for my workpeople the better I am paid; that is to say, the more respectable the class of men, the more honestly I am served, and the less liable am I to disturbances. I think that anything I have given I had better still give.

4745. Do you think that that is the general opinion?—I think there would be a great difference of opinion and in different districts.

4746. You contend it would have a check upon the labour?—Yes, I have seen evidence that has been before this Committee that satisfies me that it would be so where rates are heavy. One great evil exists, for instance, in the Staffordshire pottery district, arising from what are called butties, or middle men, who frequently keep public-houses; the respectable owner of the mine never comes in contact with his men or enters into their condition; there are exceptions, but the system is not good.

4747. Would not that feeling be decreased if it were union rating; it would throw the area of taxation over a greater space, and bring more people into a liability to support the poor?—Yes; it would have a great advantage where there is an antagonism between parishes, adjoining each other especially.

4748. I think you said that in some of the mines there was a different mode of rating; in some of the mines with which you are acquainted the rate is put upon the amount raised?—Yes, they take the amount raised as an element.

4749. And you also said that the cokeing ovens were rated by themselves?—Yes; these are sometimes in different townships.

4750. If that is the case, is not that rating it twice over for the same thing?—Yes, as regards the identical coal.

4751. Because if you rate the amount raised, surely you rate twice over for the same thing?—Yes; twice on the same produce.

4752. The value is taken into consideration as a deduction?—No; I pay twice, but I pay once as upon the raw material, and again upon the manufactured material. The farmer pays on his rent (or wool); the spinner is taxed also on his mill; I pay on coal; I pay again on coke made from that coal, although it is "oven tax" by name.

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4753. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say, that as a general principle you would rate no mine at all?—I think it is contrary to national policy.

4754. But you find that there is no principle in the present mode of rating?—No, neither as to the corpus nor as to the mode of exacting the tax.

4755. It is a compromise between the overseers, their advisers, and their attorneys?—Literally it is so.

4756. Though you are opposed to mines being rated, yet you think it would be a boon if some fixed plan of rating could be devised?—Undoubtedly it would be a boon.

4757. And then your idea amounts to this, I understand; you would take the annual value of the property, its rateable value, and, generally speaking, you would make the royalty the basis of the annual value?—Yes.

4758. What do you pay for poor-rates?—I cannot say precisely; between 1,600 *l.* and 2,100 *l.* a year for all rates.

4759. But, taking it on an average of years, do you think it would amount to 10 per cent.?—Not on the average of years probably.

4760. I was taking it when the trade has been in a flourishing state?—If that principle were carried out, it would avoid all litigation, and parties would go on much better than they do at present. I apprehend it would be a basis on which we could easily agree.

4761. As far as your experience goes, are there any heart-burnings on the part of the agriculturists in consequence of the ironstone being free, while the coal is rated?—I never heard it mooted till it was mooted before this Committee. I farm 2,000 acres myself; I attend meetings; I meet my brother farmers, but I never heard that subject mentioned till it was mentioned here; at home and abroad.

4762. Are you a large purchaser of hay and oats?—Yes; the carriage is heavy, as I bring oats from Aberdeenshire, and the coasting markets, and Fifeshire; having to feed nearly 500 horses.

4763. Mr. *Ridley.*] Continual disputes arise about the rating of coal mines, I believe?—Yes, they continually arise.

4764. In such cases, are not arbitrators frequently called in to settle the disputes?—Yes; the first thing is, to bring the matter before the magistrates at petty sessions; they are very well disposed to try to act as mediators, but ordinarily the matter goes to the quarter sessions; and on the second or third day, as every gentleman knows, they say, "You must appoint Mr. So-and-so as your referee." He must then be attended by gentlemen learned in the law, and engineers and viewers, at five or ten guineas a day, and then there is a bill of 500 *l.* or 600 *l.* to pay on a rate of, perhaps, 250 *l.*

4765. Can you at all tell me on what principle these gentlemen, acting as arbitrators, proceed when they are settling the matters in dispute; they must go upon some principle, must they not?—Certainly not; the quarter sessions, looking at the case, endeavour to ascertain whether the parties will take a viewer or professional man or a counsel; and they inquire of the gentleman sitting in court, and say, "Cannot you agree upon so-and-so?" I apprehend that every man who undertakes the office acts upon a different principle; that is my impression; if principle it can be called.

4766. Is there anything further that you wish to state to the Committee?—No; I have been called very unexpectedly here, and I have endeavoured to state my views honestly.

4767. Mr. *Foster.*] I will just ask a question with regard to the present mode of rating coal mines in your district; I think you stated that it was a sort of compromise?—I think it must be called so.

4768. And that the more or less profitable nature of the speculation was taken into account by the parish authorities in assessing the mines?—I am quite satisfied that such is the case; they say they think they can afford to pay a full rate, and therefore they assess them to the full rate. If I appeal in the year 1856, they will, in 1857, try me again; they suffer little or nothing, but I have to pay all my own expenses.

4769. I will just ask you, how would the principle you have suggested to the Committee as to the improved mode of rating, if we may so term it; if you take the arbitrary sum paid as rent, and levy upon that, you would be doing away with the general principle which now seems to prevail, inasmuch as the amount paid to the lord would not, I imagine, have any reference to whether the working of the amount of mineral was profitable or unprofitable; and therefore, by taking

taking that amount and assessing upon that, you would be abandoning the principle which now seems to prevail of taking into account the successful or unsuccessful nature of the speculation. Would it in your opinion be a beneficial change or otherwise to abandon the principle which now seems to prevail, as regards the profitable or unprofitable nature of a speculation?—The remark I intended to make was, that the public officers in the parish were very often extremely unfit. I had recently, as an instance, to hand over a cheque for 1,600 *l.* for income tax to my own carter to take to the town; such men are overseers and assessors. We then go to the court of *dernier resort*; that is the quarter sessions; they do not mediate at all, but refer it to a party to settle the matter. When met, they take the apprehended value of the mine; they will take as an element the rent paid; they will take as an element the quantity of coal sold; they will deduct a certain per-centage for repairs or contingencies, and arrive by a very laborious calculation at something like what the amount ought to be; and if there is still a difference between the assessed and the assessors, they divide the difference. Thus all real disputes must be ended.

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4770. My question was more with reference, not to the dispute, but with reference to the actual settlement of the rate upon the principle generally in use; it is a sort of compromise; but as far as your evidence goes, it has some reference to the profitable or unprofitable nature of the mine?—I do not think, in real disputes, that the final settlement does depend upon that; but I said, and I think I am bound to say, that the overseers take everything they can into account, desiring (to use a technical expression) to string up the mine, whether it is a profitable undertaking or not. Such is our view: 20 farmers are urging this course; may-be one coalowner defends his mine.

4771. Mr. *Davey.*] Your principle is the rent paid?—Yes.

4772. How would you apply that principle where the mine is worked by the owner, and no rent paid?—I must find a case near; I cannot assume a case in which a mine is perfectly isolated from all other mines; if there be a disparity, you now go to the quarter sessions to ascertain where the disparity arises. The adjustment on rent would be easy.

4773. You take it in comparison with other mines of equal extent?—Yes.

4774. You have said that your cottages are rated to the full amount; do you not take advantage of the Small Tenements Act; are you not rated on the Small Tenements Act?—Yes.

4775. Do you not get a deduction?—Yes; if I were to build a house that cost me 80 *l.*, it would ordinarily let at 4 *l.* a year; but if it was in a mining district, it would let at nearly 2 *s.* a week, which comes up to 5 *l.*; what we pay on the cottages varies from 3 *l.* to 5 *l.*

4776. *Chairman.*] Have you ever actually ascertained the basis on which the rate was fixed in cases of compromise, arising out of disputes with regard to rates?—No, I have inquired; I saw sheets upon sheets about it, calculations as to irruptions of mine gas and water, and the number of wayleaves, and everything; but at last the sum came out, I could not tell how; it seemed at variance with other decisions.

4777. I was not clear, when you named ten years as the number of years on which you would calculate your purchase, whether or not you applied that to coal mines and iron mines?—I alluded specially to coal mines; I said about ten years.

4778. Suppose, instead of being ten years, the average were only seven years, would you treat them as coal mines are treated then? Would you capitalise seven years?—If the current value was seven years, I would take seven years; if it is ten years, I would take ten years; but there must be a revision yearly.

4779. Mr. *Foster.*] Do the miners generally reside near the mines in which they work?—Generally they do.

Mr. *Thomas John Taylor*, called in; and Examined.

4780. Mr. *Ridley.*] I BELIEVE you reside near North Shields?—Near North Shields.

Mr. T. J. Taylor.

4781. Are you very largely interested in coal mines?—Yes.

4782. You are interested very largely as a lessee, are you not?—As a mining engineer.

4783. And have you been so for a considerable number of years?—Yes.

4784. Will you state, if you please, to what rates your coal mines are assessed?

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—To the poor-rates, the highway-rates, church-rates; and we also pay for our shipping-places and railways, and in boroughs to the borough-rates; the Board of Health rates, and in short to all the rates which property, under any circumstances, is liable to.

4785. Except tithe?—Except tithe; we do not pay tithe.

4786. Will you state, if you please, whether there is any principle recognised and acknowledged upon which the coal mines in the district of Northumberland are assessed?—There is a principle in our part of the country (South Northumberland I am speaking of,) that establishes the tentale rent of the collieries as the basis of the rating.

4787. Will you explain what that tentale rent is?—It is the absolute rent of the colliery; there are two rents fixed in coal mining, one is the certain rent, which is generally much less than the whole amount of the tentale rent, the other is the tentale rent; so that if the certain rent is 1,000*l.* a year, or any other figure you choose to put, and if the whole quantity of coals raised, calculated at a given amount, at 10*s.* or 25*s.*, or whatever it may amount to, is 2,000*l.* a year, then 1,000*l.* is the certain rent, and the 2,000*l.* a year is the tentale rent; in short, it is a calculation upon the whole quantity that is raised.

4788. Have you a minimum rent?—Yes, for that 1,000*l.* a year we get an equivalent number of tens; the tentale rent generally exceeding the certain rent. I have put that statement into figures, to make it clear to the Committee. Supposing the certain rent to be 2,000*l.*, and the tentale rent to be 25*s.* on the workings, with one-tenth for colliery consumption; and supposing the actual raisings to be 3,000 tens, deducting one-tenth leaves 2,700 tens as the quantity on which the rent is payable, of which there is due to the certain rent 1,600 tens at 25*s.*, which makes 2,000*l.*, and the surplus 1,100 tens at 25*s.*, which makes 1,375*l.*, making a total rent of 3,375*l.*, from which it is usual to deduct one-sixth as a legal allowance for maintenance and repairs, which would be 562*l.* 10*s.*, leaving the amount of 2,812*l.* 10*s.* for the amount to be rated upon.

4789. *Chairman.*] What colliery do you refer to?—Generally in our district, the south of Northumberland.

4790. Mr. *Ridley.*] From the nature and character of the collieries in your district, does it not happen that one colliery will extend from one township to another, and that the workings may be in one town and the houses and plant in another?—Yes, that frequently happens.

4791. How do you manage in those different cases; take the case, first, where the coal worked and the plant are situated in the same township?—In the case I have already stated, supposing the dwelling-houses and the engine-houses to be situated in the same township, they would show the amount to be rated upon; but where the colliery is situated in one township and the dwelling-houses in another, in that case we proceed in this way; say there are 300 dwelling-houses, double and single, at an average of 3*l.* 10*s.* each, that would be 1,050*l.* Deduct one-fourth as per Tenement Act of 1850; in some cases as high as one-half is allowed under the Tenement Act; that would be 262*l.* 10*s.*, which leaves for pitmen's dwelling-houses 787*l.* 10*s.* In this case the rating would be in the township where the mine is worked and the plant situated 2,025*l.*, the pitmen's dwellings in another township 787*l.* 10*s.*, making the sum total 2,812*l.* 10*s.*

4792. You put that as an exemplification?—Yes; actual cases could be given if the Committee required it. I put this as an exemplification of the mode of rating in our immediate district, and this principle is brought out with very great exactitude in our part of the country.

4793. Then you have another case, which is where the mouth of the pit is in one township, and the rest of the pit is in another township?—Yes.

4794. How do you proceed in that case?—Where the coal is being worked in different townships, still taking the gross sum; suppose one-half to be worked out of each township equal to 1,350 tens (after deducting colliery consumption), at 25*s.* for one township it is 1,687*l.* 10*s.*; for the next township, 1,350 tens, at 25*s.*, less 7*s.* 6*d.* for outstroke, wayleave, and shaft-rent, leaves 17*s.* 6*d.*, which I must explain. The 17*s.* 6*d.* is a payment for outstroke, wayleave, and shaft-rent. It frequently happens that by some means the coal in one township can be conviently worked, and the expenses thereby avoided of sinking a pit in the next township, so that a consideration is paid to the first township for outstroke, which is a communication; and for wayleave, which is the passage to and from; and for shaft-rent, which is the liberty of drawing up the shaft. These

privileges

privileges are rated at half-a-crown each: we put them at 7*s.* 6*d.*, and make the rateable value in the first township in which the plant is situated, mine rent, 1,687*l.* 10*s.*; outstroke rent, 506*l.* 5*s.*; and deducting from that one-sixth as before, 365*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, which leaves 1,828*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The rateable value in the second township, where mine only is being worked, is mine rent, 1,181*l.* 5*s.*; deduct one-sixth, which is 196*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; that leaves 984*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and the two give the amount of 2,812*l.* 10*s.*, as I said before.

4795. That is the general principle upon which the mines are rated in the southern part of Northumberland, is it?—Yes.

4796. Have you turned your attention to the question of rating the corpus of these mines?—I do not quite understand the question.

4797. Do you rate upon the principle you have stated, taking the rent as the basis, and therefore taking the rent that you pay for a thing which is taken away and which is not reproducible?—Yes.

4798. That is rating the actual corpus of the thing?—Yes.

4799. What calculation would you make as to the manner of rating that corpus; is it not like a terminable annuity?—Yes; I am speaking more particularly with reference to the tentale rent; the tentale rent is the remainder value after the circumstances referred to have been allowed for; the redemption of coal for example, the fund for the interest of the capital; all must be paid before any rent can arise from the coal mine. These are allowed for by way of deduction, in order to arrive at the amount of the tentale rent.

4800. Then your tentale rent does include all those calculations relating to the corpus?—Yes.

4801. Do you think that that principle would apply equally well to other than coal mines?—I think so.

4802. Do you know the lead mines?—I know lead mines generally; but as a rule, our attention is so much absorbed by the great interests in the coal mining in Durham and Northumberland that we do not attend much to them.

4803. You think that the principle would be applicable to them as well as to iron mines, do you not?—Yes; I think so, because it is the final result, after allowing for the risk arising out of mining transactions; and to this point you arrive at last; it is tentale rent or tonnage rent, which is the same thing.

4804. I suppose "ten" is the short for "tonnage" rent?—It is kept up as old-fashioned methods are kept up.

4805. You have spoken of the railway by which you carry your coal from the mouth of the pit to the shipping place; is that largely rated?—Yes.

4806. At what rate?—At present from 100*l.* to 150*l.* a mile, and sometimes more than that.

4807. Are your shipping places also rated?—Yes; generally for each shipping place about 150*l.* a year.

4808. How many years' value do you calculate you ought to give, if you were going to open a mine?—There are two distinct circumstances which arise for consideration in answer to your question. The first is, that where the freehold of a mine is purchased, it is usual to allow eight per cent. upon the perpetuity; that would be 12½ years' purchase. The duration of a mine is less than a perpetuity; say, 10 or 11 years' purchase; the allowance for that depends entirely upon the length of time the mine has to last. The other case is the case of the purchase of a lessee's interest in a mine; the purchase of the interest of the occupier of the mine in distinction from that of the lessor. Then an annuity has to be purchased, subject, not only to the mining risk, but also to occasional risk; it is calculated as an annuity for the term of the lease. It varies from 12 to 18 per cent.; that gives from eight to five years' purchase.

4809. You have coke ovens, have you not?—Yes.

4810. Do they rate them?—They are rated separately, over and above the tentale rent. The rate as a principle ought not to be heavy upon coke ovens, because the produce has already paid rate in the shape of coal; but as a new manufacturing process has been gone through, which gives an additional value to the article, that additional value, it is only equitable, should pay some extra rate; therefore the coke ovens are rated in some circumstances at 1*l.* to 2*l.* each. They are very wasteful things, and require a great deal of repair.

4811. Who makes the assessment in the township?—It is agreed upon between the overseers and the owners of the colliery.

4812. You meet together and settle it?—In a somewhat loose kind of manner; sometimes

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sometimes it is rather loose work at the township meetings, but ultmately it settles itself down into a principle like this.

4813. Is it your opinion that coal mines should not be rated at all?—As a question of national policy, I should think it may be doubtful whether they ought to be rated, because they are of vital consequence to the country, and as so great an amount of labour is employed in producing coal, to an extent, as Mr. Pease said, of 70 or 80 per cent.

4814. Do you also agree with Mr. Pease, that the other kinds of minerals should follow in that rating?—I do not see any distinction. I think that the rent ought to be the basis of the whole; suppose there are particular circumstances, still the rent is fixed with a knowledge of all those circumstances, and after those circumstances are calculated for, it comes to be settled between the lessee and the lessor as to the amount to be paid.

4815. What provision do you make for your pitmen in the case of illness or accident?—In the case of accident with men in our employment, we pay them what we call smart money.

4816. How much is that per week?—For petty officers it is 10 *s.* a week, and for ordinary workmen, coalhewers as we call them, 5 *s.* a week, and for boys 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, as long as they remain incapacitated and unable to go to work.

4817. Do you give them the benefit of a doctor?—They have also a surgical attendant, a surgeon being one of the regular officers of the concern.

4818. Do they pay any rent for their cottages?—No, nor for their gardens.

4819. Are they allowed any coal?—They are allowed coal free, paying only 6 *d.* a fortnight for leading the coals.

4820. What do you do about schools?—Great progress has been made in this respect within the last 10 or 12 years; I think it may be said that there is no colliery without a school.

4821. The pitmen are getting more in the habit of sending their children to school, are they not?—Yes; considerable progress has been made in the improvement of the pitmen themselves; there is an improvement in their habits and morals. The schools are frequently under Government inspection; they are constructed at the expense of the owners, with the aid of a Government grant, and the masters' and mistresses' salaries are guaranteed.

4822. You do not receive any assistance from Parliamentary grants for those schools?—In particular cases we have had something.

4823. Is the value of the agricultural produce in the neighbourhood of these mines very much increased when a mine is opened?—Yes, it is in most cases; it gives rise to an entirely new feature; it enables the farmer to keep cows, opening markets for the agricultural produce, and improves agriculture very materially.

4824. In opening a new mine you have to employ very considerable plant and machinery, have you not?—Yes, very considerable.

4825. Is that plant and machinery rated before the mine is opened, and before you get any produce?—Not in all cases; it may be so in some particular cases in protracted winning. If there is no actual produce from the mine, it is not rated.

4826. I believe that opening a coal mine is a very expensive and hazardous thing?—It is very expensive in particular circumstances.

4827. Can you mention any cases in which the opening of mines has been attended with very large expense, and where the result has not been very profitable?—There are, I am sorry to say, many cases of the kind in Durham and Northumberland. There is the case of the Seaton Delaval Colliery, where a capital of 200,000 *l.* was embarked, and when they sunk to where the coal was expected it was unfortunately found not to be there, at least it was found to be so thin as not to be of much value. That colliery has been at work 18 years, and I believe the lessees have scarcely had the satisfaction of getting a dividend yet. I speak of that case, because I know it of my own knowledge. I look over the colliery for Lord Hastings, who is the lessor.

4828. When a mine is opened it is subject to considerable risk and danger at all times, without, in some cases, your being possibly able to prevent it; the risk of explosion from fire damp, for instance, and things of that kind?—Yes, it is; and from inundation troubles, dislocations, faults, fire-damp, and variations in the mine itself; for the coal, as a general rule, is not by any means so regular as many persons assume; the changes in its section are most remarkable. For instance, the same bed that yields the best household coal in Durham yields the steam

steam coal of Northumberland; so great is the change in quality. What is the best coal at one point is at the other point steam coal, which is now exported very largely from the Tyne.

4829. Supposing a mine is shut up from either of the causes you have mentioned, what becomes of the widows and survivors of the mining population?—In the case of the working of a mine being discontinued, they are drafted off to other mines.

4830. They go off to other places?—They go off to other places; there is a scarcity of mine labour, so that there is no difficulty in their getting employment.

4831. Do you know of any cases yourself in which a mine having been shut in, the population has become a permanent burden to any great extent upon the parishes or townships?—No; I can mention the colliery of Percymain, where the entire population has found employment at other places.

4832. Can you form any idea of the profit which has been realised on an average upon coal mining in Northumberland and Durham, taking all things into consideration; it is a large question?—It is a large question; and it opens out, in fact, the whole subject of mining. It certainly has not been a profitable undertaking. We have made calculations; I have myself done so. I particularly recollect making one with the late Mr. Buddle, one of the most eminent mining engineers in the north of England. After making allowance for interest and the redemption of the capital, the profit that was realised out of mining transactions did not come to more than four or five per cent., or somewhere between four and five per cent. on the capital embarked. There are so many circumstances, and so great a risk, that as a question of comparative risk between coal mining and other mining, there seems to be some false impression abroad. At one time, when coal mines were very accessible, the risk was much less than it is now. We have been obliged to sink to great depths; 200 fathoms sometimes. The Wearmouth colliery is 275 fathoms deep; and besides that, there are difficulties that often occur. In the Haswell colliery, in which some of my family are concerned, we have sand beneath the surface; that sand cost between 30,000 *l.* and 40,000 *l.*, and they were obliged to abandon it at last. At the colliery at Merton, the same sand was got through by the mere force of engine-power, to the extent of 14,000 horses, employed in getting through the sand, and the amount of capital embarked in the mine has been so great, that I am afraid to mention it; it amounted to somewhere about 300,000 *l.*

4833. What is the general royalty paid; is it so much per ton?—It is paid by the ten, as I said before; but the average may amount to somewhere about 6 *d.* per ton.

4834. What wages do the men earn?—At present they make very good wages, and have constant employment; and recently there have been considerable advances made in their wages, so that, at present, they can make their 5 *s.* and 6 *s.* a day very easily, without working so hard as they used to do. As a general rule, it may be said that a pitman can now make 1 *s.* an hour by his employment underground. I am speaking now, of course, of the coal hewers.

4835. Are they a pretty healthy population?—They are pretty healthy; we do not find much ill health; they are not a very large race of men.

4836. They live to a very good age, do they not?—They live to a great age. They are without much disease, especially without chest disease. Cases of consumption are, upon the whole, very rare.

4837. Are they a saving people?—No, they do not save much.

4838. They are a very well-paid set of people, generally speaking, are they not?—Yes, they are; and a sober people upon the whole, except upon the pay-nights, when they take an extra glass of beer or whiskey; but irrespective of that, they are a quiet and sober class of people, upon the whole.

4839. Are they much improved of late?—Yes.

4840. They do not add much to the police rates?—No; they have their strikes perhaps, upon the average, every 12 or 13 years, but they pass quietly over; there is seldom any violence shown, and they return to their work again, as before.

4841. The coalowners contribute very largely to the support of infirmaries and the different hospitals and societies in the district, do they not?—Yes, they do.

4842. And in consequence of that have they the right of sending their pitmen, if they like, to the infirmaries, and thereby relieving the poor-rates to a very large extent?—Yes. They do not generally go there, for the reason I have stated before;

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before; that they have a surgical attendant at the colliery, and the surgeon attends them at their own houses, which is much more comfortable for them.

4843. Can you give the Committee any statement as to the increase or decrease of rates in the parts of Northumberland where the present mining populations are; has there been any increase?—In the colliery districts that I have been more immediately connected with there has been no increase of rates; there has been a decrease in the rates, and rather a material one; of course partly owing to the circumstance that the amount rated upon has been increased.

4844. But the poundage is less than it used to be?—Yes.

4845. *Chairman.*] Who are the proprietors of the coal districts in your neighbourhood?—The Duke of Northumberland, Lord Hastings, Mr. Sydney, and others.

4846. Are they large landed proprietors as well?—Yes, generally they are.

4847. So that it matters not to them as a body whether the miners are supported by the agriculturists or by the mineowners?—The rule would hardly be universally applicable to the miners in Tynemouth; for example, the Duke of Northumberland is owner of the royalty under the whole of the land, but part of the coal is worked in that manor, under land which is not his.

4848. Your principal rateable property is the agricultural property and the coal mines, is it not?—Yes, and the coal mines.

4849. Have you any other except what is connected with the coal mines?—No. We have our shipping places in the town of North Shields, but in the immediate colliery district it is agricultural property.

4850. What property have you that is free from the poor-rate?—We have no property that is free from the poor-rate.

4851. It all pays to the poor-rate, does it?—Yes.

4852. In fact, you are different from other parties who have been here, because you not only pay to the poor-rates, but you take care of your miners?—That is to say, we pay them smart-money in case of any accident happening, but we do not keep them when they are sick.

4853. Will accidents include ill-health?—No.

4854. Have you much ill-health in your neighbourhood?—No, not much.

4855. In the case of accident from fire-damp, would the families go to the union, or would they be provided for by the lessees?—They would go to the union. But there is a great deal of charity shown; and if there are widows and children left, they are allowed to keep in their houses, and the boys are employed.

4856. With regard to your poor's-rate, suppose you pay a minimum rent, say of 1,000 *l.* a year, the tentale rent is in excess when you begin to raise your coal; how soon is your minimum rent rated to the poor?—As soon as the produce of the mine is obtained; as soon as the mine becomes valuable.

4857. Then you pay your minimum rent to the lessor?—Yes: we have the power of making up the rent afterwards.

4858. You pay your rent to the lessor, whether you are making a profit or not, when you are raising coal?—Yes.

4859. Suppose you take a mining property, and the lessor has a covenant in his deed that you are to pay him at least 500 *l.* a year as the minimum rent, if you raise a certain quantity of coal, I understand from you that a great deal of outlay is required before you get your profit out of the colliery, say two or three years; all this time you are paying to your landlord a rent of 500 *l.* a year; are you rated to the poor's-rate for that rent before you receive any profit yourself?—We are not rated upon it till we actually get a profit out of the mine; in some cases it has been otherwise, but as a general rule it is not so.

4860. Although you pay a rental you are not rated upon that rental?—We are not rated upon that rental, as a general rule, until we get the produce out of the mine.

4861. Then does he allow you in after years to make deductions?—There is an allowance made sometimes to make up shorts; as a general rule, we are allowed to make up shorts as long as the whole term of the lease lasts.

4862. How is that done with regard to the poor's-rate?—In practice the difference does not amount to much.

4863. The moment you get it into actual operation, you pay upon the whole of it?—Yes.

4864. Subject to what deductions?—Subject to a deduction of one-sixth part.

4865. You

4865. You deduct that from the land?—Yes; there is a twelfth part from the land, and a sixth part from houses, and something more from tenements; but the usual deduction is a sixth part.

4866. The moment you are raising this coal you pay this rate irrespective of your losses before?—Yes.

4867. You pay with reference to the quantity raised, according to your arrangements with the lessor?—Yes, we do.

4868. That falls excessively hard upon you, does it not?—Sometimes it does; but it is regarded as an average measure of the value of the mine; in particular years there may be a loss, and in other years there may be a considerable profit. Instead of an inquisitorial inquiry into the circumstances, it is best to determine the matter by taking an average.

4869. Generally speaking, have you much difficulty in regard to your overseers?—We have occasionally; there are sometimes attempts to increase the rates.

4870. Do you sometimes resort to the quarter sessions?—Yes; the result being the tentale rent governs the arbitrators in those cases.

4871. The rent you pay to the lessor?—Yes.

4872. You deduct a sixth?—Yes.

4873. And a difficulty arises sometimes, I suppose, when you have got different townships?—Yes; there is more difficulty on that account than where all the plant is in one township; there is not much difficulty in managing it in that case; but it is where the rent is payable in different townships that the difficulty arises. There are squabbles between the townships as to the amount.

4874. Have you any scheme of your own as to how far the rating of mineral property should go?—My scheme is the one I have spoken of just now, as I conceive that the rent is the final result of the value; that it is rent for the occupier of the mine, for the speculator of the mine. He is allowed a redemption fund for his capital. He is to be allowed, after allowing for all expenses of working, the rent as the final result, all these circumstances having been taken into the account.

4875. You make very great deductions for rent, do you not?—Yes.

4876. Mr. *Ridley*.] Taking into account that you are buying a thing which is not reproducible?—Yes.

4877. I do not understand, if you take the rent paid to the landlord as the basis of the rate, or as the amount to be rated, what the redemption fund or interest of capital has to do with it?—Because that is allowed for previously.

4878. What has the redemption to a lessee of his private payment, as regards interest of capital, to do with the actual amount payable from the lessee to the lessor? It may be my ignorance on the subject, but it seems to me to be a little confused.—The lessee makes his calculations beforehand; he estimates the cost of winning the coal; he estimates the amount of capital to be required, and he takes care to provide a fund for the interest and redemption of capital before he can afford to pay the landlord a higher amount of rent; so that the very circumstance of the rent being fixed is a proof that that redemption fund has been allowed for before you come to that point. If a redemption fund was not agreed and allowed for, you could not afford to pay rent at all.

4879. When the rent is paid, it is in fact the tonnage upon the amount of coal got?—Yes, we call it a tentale, but tonnage is the same thing.

4880. What may be taken as the average of the tentale?—Sixpence.

4881. Then you say you take a sixth off, which would be one penny, reducing it to fivepence?—Yes.

4882. And the rate is levied upon that?—Upon the number of tons produced.

4883. Fivepence a ton?—Yes.

4884. *Chairman*.] The corpus question you have provided for?—Yes.

4885. You are annually absorbing a part of the mine?—Yes; the same thing is applicable to other mining property also, because other mines are terminable like coal mines. There is a certain amount of capital, which becomes exhausted, and they require the redemption fund in the same way as coal mines.

4886. You see no reason why ironstone mines should be exempt?—No; I think it is an anomalous position for them to be placed in.

4887. Do you know much about ironstone?—I know something about ironstone; it happens that we have not much in our neighbourhood.

4888. As a whole, is not ironstone equally profitable, or even more profitable, in some districts than coal?—It is difficult to say, iron is so fluctuating; the coal trade is pretty good just now.

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4889. Mr. *Ridley.*] One or two questions have been asked about the classification of mines; have you ever given your attention to that question; do you think it would be possible to classify mines?—I think they fall naturally into a classification; because the rent itself is the classification and the basis of the value.

4890. Mr. *Foster.*] Am I right in understanding that the agricultural and mining property is the only description of property that pays rates?—The house property also.

4891. I understand that the house property does not pay rates?—Yes, it does.

4892. You stated just now that the agricultural and mining property was the only description of property that paid rates?—I misunderstood the question that was put to me; the house property generally also pays rates; all rateable property does pay rates; we are not exempt from anything; but as a rule, the house property connected with mines is merged in the general rate.

4893. The other property connected with coal mines is rateable in addition to the rate levied on the mine?—No; that is the principle that I contend for; I contend that it ought to be included in the tentale rent, because it is just as necessary to have pitmen's cottages in order to produce the coal, as it is to have a pit in order to produce the coal.

4894. Is the Committee to understand that in this 6*d.* a ton, less the penny, you exempt the house property?—I include the house property in the payment of the 6*d.* a ton, where the pitmen's cottages are in the same parish, because the question does not arise as it does where they are situated in another township; the gross rating being taken on the rental of the mine. But where they are in another township, there the question arises, are the pitmen's cottages to be put at a distinct rent payable in that township? If so, that rent should form part of the aggregate tentale rent of the colliery, upon this ground, that the tentale rent includes everything; it is paid for the colliery plant, and you cannot separate the houses, the railway, and the shipping places or pits; the colliery is a single undivided undertaking.

4895. *Chairman.*] And then you work it out and apportion it afterwards?—Yes.

4896. All the cottages contribute, although they are the property of the lessees of the mine?—No, not always; as a general rule it is so, but it is not so always.

4897. Mr. *Foster.*] How is the division made in the case of a miner renting a house and property of a party other than the proprietor of the colliery?—With us we find the pitmen's houses.

4898. Whether they belong to the proprietor of the mine, or the miner rents them from another party?—Yes.

4899. *Chairman.*] You take your tentale rent as the basis of the poor's-rate?—Yes; suppose the tentale is 3,000 *l.* a year, and there are 500 *l.* worth of cottages in another township: we pay the rate on the 500 *l.* to that township, and on the 2,500 *l.* to the other township, making the 3,000 *l.*

4900. Mr. *Foster.*] It is, in the first instance, in the shape of a tonnage rate?—That is the maximum amount of rate. The 3,000 *l.* a year is divided into any given number of items that may be thought fit. Suppose the engine-house is rated, and suppose the workshop is rated, and suppose the pitmen's cottages are rated, still the aggregate amount is not to exceed 3,000 *l.* a year.

4901. Upon the whole?—Upon the whole.

4902. What is the object, if it comes entirely out of the colliery, of your apportioning it afterwards?—It is only for the purpose of satisfying each township.

Thomas Emerson Forster, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. E. Forster, Esq.

4903. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A Mining Engineer.

4904. Where do you reside?—At Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

4905. Are you a general mining engineer, or have you simply the care of some mining property?—I am a general mining engineer.

4906. How far do your surveys extend; through the whole of Northumberland?—Northumberland and Durham, and sometimes into Lancashire and Yorkshire too.

4907. Have you the sole care of any particular mining properties?—Yes.

4908. What

4908. What properties are these?—Do you mean collieries?

4909. Mining properties?—Seaton Delaval.

4910. In what county is that?—In Northumberland.

4911. Who is the proprietor, or lessor?—Lord Hastings.

4912. Is it entirely a coal, or an iron and coal property?—It is entirely a coal property.

4913. Is the property an old coal property, or has it been lately developed?—It was opened up about 1841; 16 or 17 years ago.

4914. Mr. Taylor and yourself are in the habit of meeting a good deal, I suppose?—Yes.

4915. Have you heard a good deal of his evidence?—I have heard the whole of it.

4916. Do you mainly agree with Mr. Taylor on all these points?—Entirely.

4917. Are there any points on which you differ from him?—He has described exactly the way in which we are rated at Seaton Delaval at this moment.

4918. You take the tentale rent as the basis of your rating?—Yes.

4919. And you afterwards apportion it among the townships?—Yes.

4920. Exactly in the same way?—Exactly in the same way.

4921. What is the royalty you pay for that mine?—We pay one rent for the large coal, and another rent for the small coal; together they will be about 25 *s.* the ten.

4922. What was the royalty you paid in the year 1856?—£. 4,700 a year.

4923. What deduction have you got there?—We take a sixth off.

4924. You charge the whole of that amount, save and except that one-sixth?—Yes.

4925. Have you any disputes as to the rating of mines?—No.

4926. The thing goes on quietly and comfortably?—Yes.

4927. Is your population increasing or decreasing?—Increasing.

4928. How are your poor-rates?—They are about the same.

4929. Is your landed property rated higher now than it was since you recollect?—No; it is much about the same.

4930. Neither retrograding nor progressing?—No; it is just going on happily.

4931. What becomes of your mining poor; do you take care of them in the case of accident?—In the case of accident they have 5 *s.* a week, and we find them medical aid.

4932. Are you careful as to your schools?—Yes.

4933. And clubs?—Yes.

4934. Do you know what is the rateable value of the property in your district?—In the Seaton Delaval township, I think it is about 12,000 *l.* a year.

4935. Is there any other mine on the property besides this one which you speak of?—There is one other, but it is not at work.

4936. You pay about a third of the poor's-rate, do you not?—Yes.

4937. What other property is rated; all the land, the houses, shops, and all those things are rated separately, are they not?—The grocers' shops and butchers' shops are separately rated, but the pitmen's houses are all included together.

4938. All property connected with the mine is included in the tentale rent?—Yes.

4939. You have your house property which is not connected with the mine?—Yes; we have a railway through the township, which pays.

4940. And canal?—No, no canal; only a railway.

4941. Then you have no property that is unrated?—None; everything is rated.

4942. You have no cause for complaint, that you can see?—No; I think it is the fairest plan; whichever way you take it, it would come back to the same point again.

4943. Who has the whole of the land there?—Lord Hastings.

4944. Everything?—Yes.

4945. Mr. *Ridley.*] You agree generally with what Mr. Taylor has said?—Yes.

4946. You heard what he stated?—Yes. There is one question that you asked Mr. Taylor, whether, if a colliery was let during the time of the sinking, it was rated or not: we are never rated in that case, because there is no beneficial occupation.

4947. *Chairman.*] You pay a freed rent from the time you begin?—Yes.

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4948. You pay a rent, but that rent is not rated to the poor till you yourself raise the coal?—No.

4949. Mr. *Foster.*] The rate is levied on the amount of royalty paid to the lessor?—Yes; less one-sixth.

4950. And that rate includes not only the coal, but it includes the agents' houses, the houses occupied by miners, and all properties connected with the works?—Yes.

4951. Buildings?—Yes.

4952. Tramways?—Tramways; but there is a very short distance of tramways.

4953. In the event of a rate being levied, and the houses occupied by the agents and by the miners all being assessed separately, you would not then consider the amount they represent a fair rate to assess upon the mine?—No doubt there would be a deduction if they rated the houses.

4954. The amount of their property would no longer be a guide?—No; and the difference would be the rate of the colliery.

4955. Therefore you do not consider the royalty, either as regards coal or ironstone, a fair amount upon which to levy a poor-rate, presuming that the houses occupied by the miners and others are rated in addition?—Certainly not.

Mr. *William Dickenson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. Dickenson.*

4956. *Chairman.*] FROM what district do you come?—From Cumberland.

4957. Are you entirely from a coal district, or an iron district?—Chiefly from an iron district.

4958. Your attention has been called a great deal to the mining property in that neighbourhood, has it not?—Yes.

4959. In what way?—As a surveying valuer.

4960. As a surveyor of mines generally?—As a surveyor of lands; making valuations for poor-rates and for rentals, and as to the value of properties.

4961. Have you anything to do with any mineral property?—Yes; I let some royalties as agent.

4962. What royalties?—Iron ore.

4963. What kind of ore?—Red hematite.

4964. In what district?—In the district of Whitehaven.

4965. In what union is that?—In the Whitehaven Union.

4966. Is that a large union?—There are some 12 or 14 parishes in it.

4967. Is this ironstone a new species of property opening up?—It is partly new. There is one mine which has been in existence for over 30 years; nearly 40 years.

4968. Is that an open mine or a close mine?—It is a close mine.

4969. Has that mine ever paid anything to the poor-rates?—No, except the engines and buildings.

4970. Are they rated at a high rate?—No; at a very low rate.

4971. Is the hematite iron a profitable working iron?—I believe it is.

4972. Has it increased the population in the district?—The labouring population. There are several iron mines in that district which are opening up, and which have been opened up within the last eight or ten years.

4973. Are they most of them good speculations?—Very generally they are.

4974. Do you know what are the royalties that are paid?—They vary; I think I know of one as low as 6 *d.* a ton; generally speaking, they are not lower than 1 *s.*; they vary from that to 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, and some higher.

4975. All these royalties amount to a large sum of money?—Yes.

4976. And they are entirely free from poor-rates, are they not?—Yes, except one; there is one that is opened as a working colliery that is rated to the poor.

4977. What is the basis of that rating?—I do not know; it was rated at 700 *l.*, but there was a compromise between the parties.

4978. Have your highway-rates increased in consequence?—Very much.

4979. In consequence of the heavy traffic?—Yes.

4980. Can you at all state, or can you state pretty nearly, what is the increase of the highway-rate occasioned by this traffic of the ironstone?—I can recollect what it is in some townships.

4981. Take any township you like?—There is a township at the outside of the mining district, the township of Lamplugh; in that township, which is certainly a small one, there are five miles and some odd of road; there is a mile and a quarter nearly over which the mine is carried.

4982. The

4982. The mine is the ironstone?—Yes; in 1852 the highway-rate was 3 *d.* in the pound.

4983. That was before the mine was opened?—Yes; in 1856 it had advanced to 1 *s.* in the pound, and this year the surveyor said he had made a calculation that it would cost not less than 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

4984. In consequence of this iron mine opening up, the highway rates have increased from 3 *d.* to 1 *s.*, and you think now it would be 1 *s.* 6 *d.*?—Yes.

4985. Is that extra sum of 9 *d.* in one instance, and the prospective sum of 1 *s.* 3 *d.* in another, entirely owing to those mines?—Entirely, I believe.

4986. Do they in any way contribute to the highway-rate?—In no way.

4987. Are these mines of advantage to the neighbourhood in any way?—Not to the farming population; I think not at all.

4988. They do not give an increased value to the property?—I think not; there is an increase in the value of farming property, but it is not altogether owing to that.

4989. What does it arise from?—The general prosperity of the times, I think; a portion of it may be owing to the development of mineral property.

4990. Have your poor-rates increased owing to this mine being opened?—Very little.

4991. Do your police-rates increase?—Yes.

4992. Do you attribute that mainly to the opening up of these iron mines?—Before the iron mines were opened there were no police in the district; they were in the town, but not in the country; there were only rural police.

4993. That may arise from the Act of Parliament, may it not; the Act of Parliament obliging them to have constabulary in the district?—Yes; but there are more in that district than in the other parts of the country.

4994. Is it a quiet population?—Not very; many of them are Irishmen, and consequently not very peaceable.

4995. Do many accidents occur in these coal mines?—Not very many accidents.

4996. Do the owners at all take care of their miners by the establishment of clubs, or anything of that kind?—Some of them establish clubs among the workmen; that is the settled population; the travelling population that go from county to county have no clubs.

4997. Is there any reason, so far as you know, why these mines should be exempt from poor-rates?—I do not see any good reason.

4998. Is it a matter of complaint?—Very much so; where the roads have been cut up in consequence of the traffic, the complaint is very general.

4999. Do they complain of the poor-rates or not?—Not very much of the poor-rates, because all of the men are in full employ and getting full wages; there are a very good many of the houses inhabited by the miners, and if any cessation in the working occurs, this mining population will fall upon the lands.

5000. If I understand your opinion, it is this, that here is a new property being created, which in time of distress will leave a large burthen upon the agriculturists, and they have not profited by this increase of population?—They are a little benefited, probably; some of them can sell their produce at their own door, but it is very general to send it to market.

5001. Are they large farmers or small?—Small farmers.

5002. They are likely to be benefited more than the others?—Yes; they employ their horses in taking the ore, and neglect their farms.

5003. Though they may like to have this species of traffic, you do not consider yourself that it is profitable traffic?—Yes.

5004. The farm is neglected?—Very much neglected.

5005. The ironstone is the only property in your district which is not charged to the poor, is it not?—There were lead mines, but they are not now working; there are some woods not charged.

5006. With that exception, it is the only property not rated to the poor?—Yes.

5007. And that part of the population is not so quiet as the other part, is it?—Certainly not.

5008. Is it a population likely to occasion great loss or expense to the parish, in case there should be a depression in the mineral property?—Yes.

5009. Do they also increase your highway-rates very heavily?—Yes.

5010. But they do not in any way contribute to them?—No.

Mr. *W. Dickenson.*

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5011. Do you think it is a property that should be rated the same as all other property?—Yes.

5012. What is the basis of the rating of engines in the case of an iron mine?—The basis is something like the same as in manufacturing districts, so much per horse power.

5013. Mr. *Vivian.*] I think you said there was a good deal of prosperity in the district of which you are speaking; to what do you attribute its prosperous state?—There is a general rise of prices in the country, and if the produce of the country is not saleable there, it goes to other markets.

5014. What do you think would be the effect of the stoppage upon the other mines?—The effect would be to throw the miners upon the poor-rate.

5015. What would be the effect upon the district?—There is a good demand for farming labour.

5016. By whom is the farming produce consumed?—There is a good deal sent away to Liverpool on one side, and to Newcastle on the other. There are a good many fat cattle and fat sheep.

5017. Do you think that the local market is of no value?—No, I do not say that; it is of value, but not to a great extent.

5018. It is of very slight value?—It is of some value, but it is very slight.

5019. Are the cottages in which the miners live rated to the poor?—Yes, mostly, I believe.

5020. Then the rateable value of the property in your parish has increased by reason of these mines, has it not?—Yes; soon after the houses get inhabited they are put upon the poor-rates; they are chiefly new houses.

5021. Have the mines been established long in your parish?—No, not very long; some six or seven years.

5022. Has it come within your knowledge that, generally speaking, railways are constructed for the carriage of iron ore?—Yes.

5023. Do you consider that the iron ore would be carted along your road, or do you consider that they would construct railways?—At present there is a railway that comes to the end of the parish and stops there, and is brought from others through this parish.

5024. Has there been any proposal to extend that railway to the mine?—There has.

5025. Is it likely to be carried out?—The Bill was thrown out last Session, for some reason. I have not heard of it again this year.

5026. If the mine is profitable, it will be made, I suppose?—Yes, most likely.

5027. So that the burden upon your parish may be only temporary?—It may.

5028. You have stated what your belief would be of the position in which any district would be placed by the cessation of mining operations; has it ever come within your knowledge that mining operations have ceased within your district?—No; I remember the coal mines at Whitehaven being stopped, for some reason.

5029. I am now speaking of your own particular district; has it come to your knowledge that these mines have stopped?—No.

5030. On the contrary, they have increased?—Yes.

5031. So that your opinions as to what would occur if they were to stop are rather more theoretical than practical, are they not?—So far they are.

5032. Mr. *Foster.*] The inconvenience accruing from the carting of minerals, or any other heavy substance, along the parish roads, will not be met by the rating of this mineral even?—In some instances it may, and in others not.

5033. We will take the case of going through a parish; not the parish in which the mine is situated; what relief would there be in that case, which must constantly be occurring?—The railway can only go in particular directions, the country is so hilly and undulating.

5034. It may go out of the parish in which the mine is situated, and, therefore, in the event of the ironstone being rateable, such a parish would derive nothing towards the maintenance of its roads from that mine, and, consequently, rating the ironstone does not meet the difficulty?—No.

5035. Take the case of anything arriving by water; we will take the case of a parish contiguous to a navigable river, where building stone is landed; may

it

it not occur that there may be rather a hard case, from the roads being cut up by traffic from which they can derive nothing?—Yes. Mr. *W. Dickenson.*

5036. Therefore there is nothing very peculiar about this?—No; cases of the same kind may occur in other parishes. 14 July 1857.

5037. And cases do occur occasionally in which the roads have been cut up to a very considerable extent by traffic, from which it would be impossible for the parish to derive any revenue?—Yes; it is so. The mines have another effect in taking away the best of the labouring men; all the best farm labourers go to the mines.

5038. Mr. *Williams.*] Is it your opinion that the working of those mines has the effect of bringing a poor population into the neighbourhood?—Yes.

5039. And that it increases that poor population?—Yes.

5040. Do you think it fair that they should leave that population there, when the mine stops, and not contribute anything to the rates by having the royalty rated?—I think it should contribute to the rates.

5041. Mr. *Foster.*] Are you quite clear upon that point; are we to take it as your clear and decided opinion, that you would rate the royalty?—No.

5042. You think the mine ought to contribute to the rates?—Yes.

5043. But do you go so far as to say that that contribution ought to be in all cases based upon the royalty?—No; the royalty is a very uncertain guide; in contracts that have been made a number of years ago, the royalty is very low; but within the last few years the price has very much advanced.

5044. Mr. *Williams.*] I will put the question in another way; you think that the mines ought to contribute to their own poor?—I do.

5045. In what way would you consider that those mines should be rated; in respect of their royalty, in respect of their produce, or in respect of their profits?—In respect of their produce in connexion with their profits.

5046. Not in respect of the royalty?—No, not in respect of the royalty.

5047. Do you not consider that the royalty payable to the lord might be considered as the rent?—No; I think that after the first lease expires, it should not be touched at all. During the first lease it should be an arrangement between the owners of the royalty and the lessees; after that, the parties should settle the matter themselves.

Jovis, 16° *die Julii*, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kendall.	Mr. Foster.
Mr. Cavendish.	Mr. Philipps.
Mr. Child.	Colonel Pennant.
Mr. Colvile.	Mr. Ridley.
Mr. Davey	Mr. Hussey Vivian.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Michael Williams.

NICHOLAS KENDALL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *George Simpson*, called in; and Examined.

5048. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—At a place called Little Urswick, in the northern division of the county of Lancaster. Mr. *G. Simpson.*

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5049. What are you?—I am a relieving officer.

5050. Of what district?—Of the Dalton district, in the Ulverston Union.

5051. How many parishes are there in your union?—Three.

5052. Have you any mining property in your union?—We have a great deal of mining property in the union.

5053. What kind of mining property is it?—It is iron ore.

 5054. Are

Mr. *G. Simpson.*

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5054. Are they of recent discovery or not?—There has been a great deal more wrought of late years; but some of them have been wrought ever since I can remember.

5055. Latterly, it has very much increased, has it?—Three times as much within the last five years.

5056. What kind of iron is it?—Hematite.

5057. Are they all close workings or not?—Some are close, and some are not.

5058. Do you rate the open workings, or not?—No; none of them are rated.

5059. Since these mines have so much increased, has the population increased also?—The population has increased greatly.

5060. You as relieving officer, can tell us whether the poor in your parish have increased within the last five years?—I do not say that the number of poor has increased so very much, but the highway-rates have increased. We are called upon to relieve miners in consequence of accidents.

5061. Have you been called upon as overseer to relieve the families of men who have received accidents in these mines?—Yes, a great many times. I have made out a return for the last twenty years, during which I have been relieving officer, and during that time 10 men have been killed, leaving 10 widows and 37 children; all those have applied to me for relief.

5062. There have been 10 men killed?—Yes.

5063. And in each case the families have come to you for relief?—Yes, in every one.

5064. With regard to these accidents, have you got any account of them?—In general, with regard to men who have been killed, the owner of the mine inters them; but the widows fall upon the union afterwards.

5065. In the case of men being killed by accident, the owners of the mines inter them?—Very often they do; but not always.

5066. With regard to the highway-rates, what are the highway-rates in your district?—The highway-rates are in some districts double, in some threefold, and in others fourfold. In the district in which I reside, about ten years ago, it was 4*d.* in the pound, and last year it was 2*s.*; this was entirely in consequence of the carting of iron ore from the mines to the different places where it was shipped or put on to a railway.

5067. What property have you in the parish that is not rated?—None, I believe, except the iron ore mines.

5068. The iron ore mines yield a great deal of royalty to the proprietors, do they not?—Yes, more than all the land is worth.

5069. To the owners of the property; I do not mean to the proprietors?—You mean to the lord of the manor?

5070. Yes, to the lord of the manor?—Yes, they do.

5071. Is there only one lord or are there various lords?—There are various lords.

5072. Is it the fact that the various lords of the manor receive in the aggregate more royalty than the whole of the rental besides?—Yes, I believe so.

5073. And the whole of that royalty is free from rates of any kind?—The whole of that royalty is free from rates of any kind.

5074. It is free from poor-rates, is it not?—Yes.

5075. Highway rates?—Yes.

5076. And police rates?—Yes.

5077. Are the police rates heavy?—They are paid out of what is called the county rate; I cannot speak to that; we have a good many police; perhaps a dozen.

5078. What is the whole amount of the county rate?—In my district?

5079. Yes.—Perhaps it is about 500*l.* a year; that is not all for the police rate; it is for different things; for asylums, and gaols, and so on.

5080. What is it in the pound?—It is collected with the poor-rate; it is not distinguished.

5081. Has there been any complaint made at all in consequence of these mines increasing, and not paying to the rates?—The farmers complain sadly. Since 1853, six men have been killed, who left six widows and 26 children, and the farmers complain rather heavily of those burthens falling upon them, and of the owners of mines, who make a great deal of money, not paying a farthing towards the rates.

5082. As

Mr. *G. Simpson.*

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5082. As far as the ironmasters go, are they supposed to make any large profits?—Yes, some of them; there is no doubt about that at all.

5083. Since this large increase of population, and this large increase of mineral workings there, has the property increased much in value to the farmer?—No; I do not think that the value of landed property has increased much. It is chiefly a ploughing country, and the price of grain is regulated by our imports from abroad. The profits on eggs and butter may be increased in consequence of the mines, but that is all; and that is counterbalanced by making the number of men scarcer, and having more wages to pay.

5084. You do not think that the mines are really of much benefit to the farmer in consequence of the increased wages that he is obliged to pay?—They are more a benefit to the shopkeepers and those sort of people than to the farmers.

5085. Do the farmers get much by carting?—Not a great deal; a great deal is done by the mine owners themselves; some is done by the small farmers, but the large ones do not cart any; it is quite an agricultural country.

5086. Is it your opinion, and is it the opinion of the farmers generally, that iron mines ought to contribute to the poor-rates?—Yes; for this reason; they consider that the mines ought to be rated in their time of prosperity, because if the mines become dull and unprosperous, and there is nothing left but the land, the mining masters can go away with what they have got, but the land cannot get away, and therefore they must abide the brunt; the farmers think that the mine owners ought to pay a little in their prosperous days.

5087. Mr. *Philipps.*] Is the highway-rate high?—In some of the divisions of the parish there are tramways and railways made; but with regard to Urswick the farmers have complained heavily. One said that he paid 20 *l.* where he ought not to have paid 3 *l.*

5088. *Chairman.*] Did that farmer in any way benefit by the mine being there?—I do not think he did; perhaps the other way.

5089. You think that the highway-rates have increased from 3 *l.* 12 *s.* to 20 *l.*?—Yes; in consequence of the iron ore mines.

5090. Mr. *Colvile.*] Have you any cases in which the owner of the surface and the owner of the mineral is the same person?—Yes.

5091. When the owner of the soil and the owner of the mine is the same person, the owner of the soil cannot be injured by the mine not being rated?—The owners of the soil are very glad to have land to work, because they get so much per ton for royalty.

5092. They are suffering no injury?—They are suffering no injury.

5093. The farmers complain, I think you say?—Yes.

5094. Is it a very unusual thing for farmers to complain?—I do not know, I am sure; they do not complain about anything else.

5095. Assume that these mines were open when the farmers took their land?—The mines in a great measure have increased threefold within the last five years.

5096. They took their farms with a full knowledge, did they not, that they would have to maintain these miners in case of sickness, did they not?—Yes; but not to so great an extent; they did not think there would be so many miners, and the more there are, of course, the greater number of accidents there are.

5097. Has there been a great increase in your mining population?—Very great. In 1841 the population was 4,936, and now it is about 10,000.

5098. Do they not benefit the farmers by eating their mutton, butter, and cheese?—Yes; to that extent certainly they benefit them; grain is the chief staple.

5099. Mr. *Vivian.*] What do the horses eat?—Hay and corn.

5100. Where do they get that from?—The mine owners keep farms themselves.

5101. Do they hire horses to cart the produce of the mines themselves?—Yes.

5102. So that all the horses are fed by the farmers?—Not the whole; but a part of them are.

5103. As to the turnips; who eats the turnips?—They feed the cattle with them.

5104. What becomes of the cattle?—A great many of them are sold, and sent down to the Manchester and Preston markets.

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5105. They import beef and mutton into the country, do they not?—No; a good deal is consumed in the neighbourhood of the mines.

5106. Does not what is consumed come from the farm-yards in the neighbourhood?—Yes, certainly it does.

5107. So far, the mine is a benefit to the neighbourhood, then?—So far as that goes, it is, no doubt.

5108. Do you think that if there were no rates, the farmers would be able to pay the land owners a higher rent for their land?—A little; it would not be a great deal.

5109. They would be liable to pay higher to the extent of the rates?—Yes; if it were not for the minerals there would be the same rates still.

5110. If there were no rates at all, the farmers would be able to pay the land owner the amount of the rates which they are paying?—Certainly they would.

5111. Does the rate come out of the farmer's pocket, or out of the pocket of the landowners?—Indirectly it comes from the landlord, as a matter of course, because the farmer must calculate upon his rent.

5112. I will repeat the question, whether or not in most cases the owner of the mineral is not the owner of the soil?—No; that is so in some cases, but not generally, not a tenth part of it; a great part of the royalty belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch.

5113. Do you think that the district would be benefited by the stoppage of the mines?—No, I do not think it would, because the men are there, and what must become of them.

5114. Assume that they were wiped out from the face of the country; do you consider that the district would be, generally, better or worse off than it is at present?—I cannot say that if all the miners went away it would be any worse; but a great number cannot get away; the oldish persons cannot get away, the young can get away, of course.

5115. Do you think that they are a benefit to the neighbourhood?—I think they are a benefit while the trade is brisk.

5116. *Chairman.*] Though the miners will eat beef and mutton, you do not depend upon them for your market?—Certainly not.

5117. You take a good deal of it elsewhere, do you not?—Yes; a great part of it goes to other towns.

5118. Have rents increased within the last five years in consequence of the mining operations?—I do not know, I am sure; I do not think they have increased much lately. I think that the farmers are a little better off now, and that the grain has sold for a better price, but I do not think that the rents have increased.

5119. Do you think that the farmers have been induced to give a higher rent for their estates in consequence of there being a population there that can eat off the produce?—No; nothing of the kind.

5120. Are your farms let upon leases for terms of years?—Some of them are, but not all.

5121. Suppose this case. Suppose the highway-rates have been 3 *d.*, and that they become 2 *s.*; does the tenant farmer get any relief in consequence of the increase of that highway-rate?—No; I do not think he does.

5122. In consequence of the increase of the population there, of course there has been an increase in the number of houses?—Yes.

5123. Are all those houses rated to the poor?—Yes.

5124. Are they rated in such a way as to relieve the poor-rate considerably?—They help a little.

5125. Do they rate the plant connected with the mines?—No; I think they rate the railway, but not anything with respect to mines.

5126. Mr. *Colvile.*] There are no smelting works in your district, are there?—No.

[*The Witness handed in the following Papers:*]

THE Number of PAUPERS relieved in the Ulverstone District, in the Ulverstone Union, comprising the Town and Township of *Ulverstone*, *Mansriggs*, and *Osmotherley*, and the Parish of *Pennington*, on Accidents at the Mines, and Sickness, showing the Number Killed each Year, the Number of Widows and Children left chargeable to the Poor Rate, and the Amount paid to them, together with the Amount paid to those Disabled, from Lady-day 1848 to Lady-day 1857.

Years ending Lady-day.	Number of Men Killed, leaving Wives and Children under 16 Years of Age.			Number of Men Disabled and Sick, and their Wives, and Children under 16 Years of Age.			Widows and Children under 16, of Men Dead in previous Years.		Amount of Out-door Relief to all the above-named Classes.			
	Men.	Widows.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Widows.	Children.	£.	s.	d.	
1848	–	–	–	11	8	20	2	7	18	12	9	
1849	–	–	–	12	7	29	2	7	29	16	3	
1850	–	–	–	13	11	32	2	6	28	9	10	
1851	1	1	3	11	9	19	3	10	22	6	10	
1852	–	–	–	18	13	39	4	15	26	15	11	
1853	–	–	–	17	13	36	5	20	36	5	6	
1854	–	–	–	7	4	12	6	23	46	–	3	
1855	–	–	–	7	7	23	4	15	49	10	6	
1856	–	–	–	10	10	32	6	20	58	6	3	4 widows and 13 children now in receipt of relief.
1857	–	–	–	16	13	44	4	13	50	11	2	
								£.	366	14	3	

A LIST of MEN relieved in the Dalton District on account of Accidents at the Iron-Ore Mines, from Lady-day 1837 to Lady-day 1857.

	AMOUNT PAID TO EACH.		
	£.	s.	d.
John Myers, broken leg	3	3	–
William Fraser, ditto	–	4	–
Joseph Sandham, ditto	9	–	–
Richard Kirby, ditto	9	3	–
Wilson Stable, lamed	–	7	–
Robert Bird, ditto	4	17	4
Richard Fawcet, loss of sight	26	18	6
Daniel High, lamed	1	2	–
James Inman, ditto	–	5	–
Robert Wetherburn, ditto	2	1	6
Richard Helm, broken arm	–	12	–
George Kendal, lamed	2	5	–
James Bibby Nicholson, loss of a leg	3	2	6
William Grigg, lamed	1	3	–
Robert Mason, ditto	6	16	–
William Chorley, ditto	1	8	–
William Minikin, ditto	1	13	–

Mr. *G. Simpson.*

16 July 1857.

A List of Widows relieved in the Dalton District on account of their Husbands being Killed in the Iron-Ore Mines, from 1837 to 1857, each Year ending at Lady-day.

WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.	AMOUNT PAID TO EACH.		
	£.	s.	d.
Margaret Brocklebank and five children	2	16	–
Sarah Sowerby	61	18	–
Sarah Brunton	27	10	5
Margaret Harrison	34	2	6
Margaret Lowery and two children	37	14	–
Jane Brockbank	18	12	–
Ann Hall and six children	85	7	7
Ann Park and three children	62	16	–
Ann Duke and six children	13	2	–
Alice Long and six children	13	8	4
Ann Dixon and two children	21	6	–
Jane Bowman and four children	10	16	–
Mary Hayton and three children	17	6	–
Mary Hunter and five children	15	6	–

Years ending Lady-day.	Number of Men Killed, leaving Wives, and Children under 16 Years of Age.			Number of Men Disabled, having Wives, and Children under 16 Years of Age.			Widows, and Children under 16, of Men Killed in previous Year.		Number of Men Disabled in previous Years.			Amount of Out-door Relief paid to all the before-named Classes.
	Men.	Widows.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Widows.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
												£. s. d.
1838	–	–	–	1	1	2	2	5	–	–	–	6 5 7
1839	2	2	6	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	24 7 6
1840	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	6	–	–	–	27 1 1
1841	1	1	3	–	–	–	4	6	–	–	–	30 6 6
1842	1	1	2	1	1	–	5	9	–	–	–	48 13 –
1843	–	–	–	1	1	5	6	11	–	–	–	44 6 6
1844	–	–	–	2	2	6	5	5	–	–	–	30 3 –
1845	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	5	–	–	–	26 13 4
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1847	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	5	–	–	–	25 19 6
1848	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	5	–	–	–	13 19 5
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1851	–	–	–	3	1	6	–	–	1	1	1	10 – 6
1852	–	–	–	2	1	6	–	–	–	–	–	4 15 –
1853	–	–	–	1	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	3 3 –
1854	2	2	12	1	–	–	1	–	1	1	3	15 12 6
1855	2	2	6	1	1	4	3	12	–	–	–	26 1 –
1856	2	2	8	–	–	–	5	18	–	–	–	36 19 –
1857	–	–	–	3	3	3	7	26	–	–	–	50 14 7
	10	10	37	19	15	40	–	–	–	–	–	489 16 –

Mr. *Joseph Fisher*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Fisher.*

5127. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—I am a Maltster and small Farmer; I farm 40 acres, and I am also a Lime-burner.

5128. Upon what particular point are you anxious to give evidence here that the evidence of the last witness does not embrace?—Only to show the way in which the rating has increased.

5129. What

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5129. What parish do you live in?—I live in Dalton parish.

5130. Have you lived there a long time?—I was born there, and have lived there all my life.

5131. Has there been any alteration with regard to the rates of Dalton within the last 10 years?—The rates on land have not been altered, to my knowledge; the principal increase has been the Furness Railway, which was made 11 years since.

5132. That has been rated also?—Yes.

5133. Is that the only species of property that has become subject to be rated since you can recollect?—There are more than 200 new houses, of one description or another, that have been built since that time in Dalton township.

5134. And they are also rated?—They are also rated

5135. With the exception of these new houses and the railway, the rating is just the same as it was 10 years ago, is it?—The rails of the tramway are rated at 180 *l.*; at least that is the rateable value; but the rating of the Furness Railway is separate.

5136. Are those tramways connected with the iron mines?—They belong to the iron ore masters.

5137. Have you any coal in your district?—No, there is none nearer than Whitehaven, which is 40 miles.

5138. In your parish you have no coal?—No.

5139. Have these iron mines been opened up lately?—Some of them have been opened for 60 or 70 years, and some of them have been opened within the last two years.

5140. Has there been a large increase within the last few years?—Yes.

5141. Within the last five years have they doubled?—Yes, and more than doubled.

5142. And your population has increased in consequence?—The population has increased in consequence.

5143. With regard to your poor-rates, have your poor-rates increased?—They have not increased.

5144. Have you any statistics to show us what they were 10 years ago and what they are now; how much in the pound is the poor-rate now?—A shilling in the pound.

5145. What was it five years ago?—I cannot say; I have not any statistics.

5146. Is it not the fact that, although it has not increased in the pound, yet it must have increased very much in amount, inasmuch as there is much more rateable property?—The Furness Railway is rated at 3,800 *l.*; the rateable value of the parish was about 17,000 *l.*; and the new cottages, shops, beer-houses, and the tramways make it up nearly to 22,000 *l.*, or something like that.

5147. You think that the difference between 17,000 *l.* and 22,000 *l.* arises in consequence of the additional houses for the miners which have been built, and other buildings being rated?—Yes, the railway is the principal increase; that is rated at 3,800 *l.*; it extends into ohter parishes, but that is what is rated in Dalton parish.

5148. As to the police-rates, are they high?—The police-rates are taken from the county-rate, they are collected together.

5149. How is your highway-rate?—The parish of Dalton is divided into four townships; the out townships are not rated at more than 4 *d.* in the pound and 6 *d.* in the pound; but the township of Dalton is rated at 2 *s.* in the pound this last year, in consequence of the iron ore cartage; that is not all connected with repairs, the mine owner or person who is connected with mining ordered the widening of the road.

5150. And that increased the expenses?—Yes, they were expending 10 *l.* a-week; and they were summoned before the Bench three times; they were then expending 10 *l.* a-week for a road extending only a mile in length within Dalton township.

5151. Who summoned them?—A person of the name of Fell.

5152. Is he connected with the mines?—Yes; he has mines in Urswick at a place called Stanton. They were laying out 10 *l.* a-week on that very road.

5153. Was that principally for the accommodation of an iron mine, which iron mine in no way contributed to the highway-rate?—No; they did not contribute anything whatever.

5154. With regard to this widening of the road, was there an order made in petty sessions?—It was concluded by the ratepayers to cause less expense.

 5155. What

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5155. What did this widening cost them?—I cannot say exactly; but I have a book with me in which is entered what was expended last year; 6*d.* in the pound would have maintained the roads if it had not been for the mines.

5156. Mr. *Colvile.*] I suppose you come here to represent the agricultural part of the district?—I am one of the churchwardens, and I was told that if I did not come they would compel me to come; but I did not come here to tell anything but the truth.

5157. You say that the mines have increased very much within the last ten years?—Yes.

5158. And that the poor-rates have not increased?—No; the poor-rates have not increased.

5159. The mines have brought all these additional customers to your doors?—Of course they are customers for milk and butter, and so forth, but as to the grain, the difference in price is only the amount of freight wherever it comes from.

5160. I suppose you are very well satisfied with the thing as it now stands?—I am not satisfied with the way in which the miners trespass upon our land; I only occupy 40 acres, but there are two pits in the land, and they have commenced within two years; from one of them I have got nothing as compensation, and I do not think I shall, without taking them to the county court.

5161. With the exception of this trespass question, you do not wish to see any alteration?—I could wish to see them rated, because they wear the roads, and we have to make them.

5162. You say that the highway-rate is not increased?—No; I say the highway-rate is increased in the township.

5163. You wish to have them rated to the highway rates?—If they were rated to the poor-rates they would be rated to all other rates.

5164. Mr. *Vivian.*] Does this road that you speak of terminate at the mine?—Yes; it comes to the wharf at Dalton station.

5165. That is one end; where is the other end?—The other end is at the mine.

5166. Does the other end go beyond the mine?—One end is in Dalton, and the other extends into Urswick parish.

5167. I want to know where this road goes to; it commences with the wharf; where does it go to?—It goes to the neighbouring villages.

5168. I suppose they commenced to widen it at the wharf?—No; they commenced where it was narrower, a little further up.

5169. Is it within your knowledge unusual in the county of Lancashire ever to widen roads where they are narrow?—There have been several roads widened, but they have all been widened on account of these mines, because the roads are so full of carts that gentlemen cannot get by them with their conveyances; there was never any complaint of this road until the iron ore was carted on it, and that is within the last five years.

5170. Is the carting usually done by the farmers, or who is it done by?—They do it themselves; some of the iron-ore masters keep their own horses and do it all. Messrs. Schneider & Co. let it all to one man, and what he cannot do he hires anybody he can get to do it; but the large farmers do not cart any.

5171. Who is the man that he lets it to?—He is not a farmer, but he farms a little for his own accommodation.

5172. Where does he get his grain and corn from?—He buys it.

5173. Buys it of the neighbouring farmers?—Yes.

5174. So that they have not to cart it from a distant market?—They buy it of the neighbouring farmers.

5175. Which is a great convenience?—Yes; there is not much hay to sell in our neighbourhood.

5176. But still the grain is consumed by them?—We send most of it to Preston and Wigan; we do not sell 50 quarters in the neighbourhood during the year.

5177. That is malt?—Yes.

5178. As regards oats for the horses; they are consumed very largely, are they not?—Yes; and made into bread; a considerable quantity of oats is made into bread in North Lancashire.

5179. And some corn is consumed by the miners?—Yes.

5180. The farmers are not much worse off there, are they?—The farmers get the marketable price just the same as it would fetch in the market.

5181. They

5181. They have the difference of the cost of delivery?—Yes; they can go 700 miles for 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. Mr. *J Fisher.*

5182. *Chairman.*] The fact is, that the price of hay and corn has not increased since the mines have been in the neighbourhood?—No; there has been no increase in price in consequence of the mines. 16 July 1857.

5183. You have been asked about the widening of this road; was that widening entirely in consequence of the increased working of the mines?—It was entirely.

5184. Mr. *Child.*] You said that that was not the reason of the increase; was that the reason of the increase?—It is the sole cause of the increase.

5185. Has there been an increase or not?—Yes, there has been an increase.

5186. *Chairman.*] Is that increase larger than the increase has been in other districts apart from the mine?—The other townships in the parish are only rated at 6*d.*, another at 4*d.*; Dalton is 2*s.*

5187. Can you farmers get more money than other farmers in consequence of having a ready market at home?—Not at all; I say it is not a hay-growing country for sale generally.

5188. Mr. *Vivian.*] For how much per quarter can you deliver in the various markets, the distant markets of Liverpool and Preston?—That varies every market-day.

5189. What is the cost of delivering a quarter?—It costs from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a quarter, because it goes across by steam-boat, and then by railway. It could be carried for 1*s.* by a vessel all the way round.

5190. How many quarters of oats per acre do you grow?—I mean our Carlisle ushel. Eight imperials is a quarter.

5191. About two quarters and a half to the acre, is it not?—Five or six quarters to the acre of oats.

5192. If those six quarters cost you, to deliver at a distant market, 1*s.* 6*d.* a quarter, surely there is an advantage, if it is consumed on the spot, of 9*s.* an acre; is not that so?—Of course there is that advantage.

5193. *Chairman.*] You do not send the corn that distance, do you?—No, we do not send the corn at all; we send the malt.

5194. Mr. *Vivian.*] The cattle and pigs are consumed on the spot, are they not?—No.

5195. Mostly, are they not?—No; three-fourths are sent to Preston and Manchester.

Mr. *Jacob Henry Cotterell,* called in; and Examined.

5196. WHERE do you reside?—At Bath. Mr. *J. H. Cotterell.*

5197. Are you connected a good deal with certain quarries in the neighbourhood of Bath?—With the oolitic quarries in the neighbourhood of Bath. In my profession of surveyor, I think we have in our office the care of the whole of the oolitic quarries of the district, with the exception of one small estate.

5198. To what district do you apply that?—To the oolitic quarries in the neighbourhood of Bath, extending from Corsham on the east to Combe Down on the west of Bath.

5199. Do you survey those for the proprietors?—We survey them for the proprietors, to settle the sums to be paid, and to receive the money.

5200. Who are the principal proprietors of those collieries?—The principal proprietors in the Combe Down District, which is the principal district, are Mr. Vivian, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Thomas, and Mr. Vaughan Jenkins; and in the Box and Corsham district the principal proprietors are Messrs. Northey, Mr. Yockney, and some others.

5201. What are the general terms that you make on the part of the lessors?—They pay us for the quarries which are worked open so much per perch of 16½ feet in length; and where the quarries are worked underground they pay us so much per superficial yard of the stone removed.

5202. Are all the quarries managed in the same way, as far as the lessors go?—The whole of the quarries which are worked underground are, I think, under the same regulation.

5203. They all pay the same?—Yes; with the exception of the estate which is not under our care, they are all worked upon the same principle, that of a certain sum per superficial yard.

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5204. As our object is to inquire into the poor's rate, I must ask you how do you manage in your leases, first of all, with regard to them?—We always provide that the tenants shall pay all parochial rates and taxes.

5205. How far is the tenant affected?—The underground quarries are never rated to the relief of the poor; the surface collieries are all of them rated, but on no particular principle.

5206. What is the basis of the rating?—They are rated on no particular principle; there is generally in the leases of the quarries a minimum rent fixed, a rent that must be paid to the landlord, and the parish officers in most instances take that minimum rent. In one or two parishes where there is a small amount of poor-rate, they take the sum which is paid to the landlord and rate that; but the rates are very low indeed, and the people pay them without much complaint.

5207. Can you at all give us an idea, as far as the open quarry working goes, what is the relative proportion of the minimum rent to the actual rent paid to the lessor?—As a general average, the minimum rent is about a third of the actual payment.

5208. If I understand you, what you say is this; that on an average the minimum rent is a third of the actual royalty paid to the lord?—Generally speaking, it is.

5209. Nowithstanding that the minimum rent is the poor-rate, and in some instances they rate the royalty?—Yes.

5210. So that, in some instances, it is three times as much as the other?—Yes; and there is a still greater disproportion than that sometimes; sometimes only a fifth or a sixth is rated.

5211. Has it led to any disputes at all?—In the parishes of Box and Corsham particularly, where some of the quarries are open and some underground, there has been great dissatisfaction; but there have been no disputes.

5212. There has been no dispute before the petty sessions as to the rating of open quarries?—None whatever.

5213. Do you know of any case in which a quarry after being worked out by close working becomes a mine, where it is so worked as to make it a mine instead of a quarry?—I know two or three instances in which the parishes have rated the quarry at its commencement, while it is necessary to work it open, and then when the workings have been conducted underground they have ceased to rate it to the relief of the poor.

5214. You have had some contests at Bath about it, have you not?—Yes.

5215. Merely because they work by close work instead of open work they are free?—Yes; there was a decision of the Wiltshire Quarter Sessions about the year 1840 upon an appeal that a quarry worked close was a mine, the magistrates so deciding by a majority of one. The parishes have thought of disturbing that decision many times.

5216. Does that appear to you to be an anomaly?—Yes, a very great anomaly; my opinion is this, that there should be no distinction between the two cases; I think they should both be rated to the relief of the poor.

5217. I believe that that is the general opinion in your district?—Yes, I think it is; I do not think that there is any difference of opinion in our district upon the subject.

5218. Do the royalties in your district amount to a large sum?—Yes, they do amount to a large sum in comparison to the value of the stone.

5219. Take any parish you like, and let us know, if you can, the value of the royalty, as compared to the rateable value of the parish?—I think I can give you an approximation; I think that in the parish of Monckton Combe the value of the royalties is something like 2,000*l.* a year, and the rateable value of the parish, exclusive of the quarries, would be about 2,000*l.* a year.

5220. The quarries in the parish of Monckton Combe are open, are they not?—Yes.

5221. Have you any close workings in the township?—There is in the parish of Monckton Combe only one, and that is pretty nearly abandoned.

5222. Take another parish where you have close workings?—In the parish of Box, which is a large parish, there are open and close workings.

5223. Take the whole of the rating of Box, what is it?—The whole rateable value of the parish of Box is, I think, exclusive of the railway, which is a considerable

derable portion of it, about 7,000*l.* a year; the railway is rated at 2,000 *l.*; about 9,000*l.* altogether. Mr. *J. H. Cotterell.* 16 July 1857.

5224. The railway is rated at 2,000*l.*?—Yes.

5225. What is the agricultural portion of it?—The agricultural portion would be represented by 6,000*l.*

5226. What are the houses?—Not much; a very few hundreds. The royalties of the open work would be about 300*l.* a year, and the value of the close workings would be something like 1,200*l.* a year; the sums received by the owners.

5227. On that 300*l.* a year, what is the rating to the poor?—On that 300*l.* a year the rating is about a fifth; it has been rather carefully done; it has been taken at a fifth of the royalty, dependent upon the convenience of the quarry for access to the railways; varying from a fourth to a fifth.

5228. The close working is not rated at all?—No.

5229. Has that caused a good deal of dissatisfaction, or not?—Yes, it has; the parish many times has intended to have the question raised.

5230. With regard to your highway rates, are they at all increased in consequence of the close workings in Box?—No, I think not; the traffic goes, to some extent, upon turnpike roads, not upon parish roads, and therefore it cannot do that. The close quarries are assessed to the highway and church rates.

5231. The close quarries are?—Yes, the whole; the only rate they are exempt from is the poor-rate.

5232. Have they submitted to that, or are they impressed with an idea that they are legally bound to pay it?—They have submitted to it, I believe.

5233. Are the miners provident or not?—Yes; I think they are about the average.

5234. Are they well paid?—They are well paid.

5235. What are they in the habit of getting?—Eighteen shillings a week on the average.

5236. The quarrymen earn more than the miners, do they not?—About the same, very much. The men who work underground are generally paid by piecework, so that they are their own masters.

5237. Are your close working men the same kind of men?—They are the same description of men.

5238. Do they shift from one to the other?—Yes.

5239. The close working men are as good as the open working men?—Yes. If you were to take the men in the Combe Down district and put them in the Box district, they would be at a loss, and *vice versâ*; but if they are in proximity they change from one to the other without any difficulty.

5240. There is a difference between the close and the open working men, is there?—There is not much difference in the *morale* of the men, or in their skill.

5241. The one is just as quiet as the other?—Yes.

5242. Are they careful of their families, generally speaking?—Yes.

5243. Are the poor-rates much increased by them?—I should think not; the parish officers and the farmers of that district make complaints that the poor-rate has been increased, in consequence of the increase in the number of quarrymen; but I think it is without foundation.

5244. Are you aware at all whether the poundage has been increased?—I am not aware that it has.

5245. Your impression is, that notwithstanding the increase of labour there, the poor-rate has not been increased?—I am sure it has not. The farmer would say that it would have diminished if it had not been for the burthens the quarries are supposed to bring on the parishes.

5246. In order to avoid the poor-rates have you close workings, which would otherwise be open workings?—There is no doubt of it. In the case of a quarry in the parish of Box, it requires them to go to a good deal of expense in propping the ceiling to keep it up, and they would work open if it were not for their liability to pay poor-rates.

5247. And is it dangerous too?—It is dangerous in places.

5248. Your opinion is, that they submit to that danger rather than submit to the poor-rate?—Yes; it is a very limited district; the gentleman who will follow me, who is a most extensive close quarry worker, will speak to that point. I have been surprised at the risk they will run in order to follow their quarries underground with a view to avoid the poor's-rate.

5249. Mr. *Philipps.*] Is the saving by their not being made liable to the poor's-rate

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rate sufficient to compensate them for the increased expense?—It is, in their estimation.

5250. Do you believe it to be so?—I think not; the rates are high in the parish of Box.

5251. *Chairman.*] Have you any further remark which you wish to make?—I wish to make a remark as to the rating of coal mines in our district.

5252. Can you speak as to that?—Yes; I should just like, with the consent of the Committee, to say that that has been a very vexed question, and it seems to have settled down into a rating, subject to some deduction varying from 10 to 15 per cent.

5253. Do you speak to that from your own personal knowledge, or do you survey those mines?—I survey those mines.

5254. Do you attend on the part of the lessors, or how?—In the case of the coal mines we are not concerned with them.

5255. Do you attend to the rating of the mines?—Yes, on the part of the parishes.

5256. Your object is to put them pretty nearly as high as you can?—To put them fairly; but the tendency would rather be to put them high than low.

5257. What is the royalty generally in your district?—It varies from a twelfth to a sixteenth, according to circumstances. In the Gloucestershire district, where the coal is near the surface, I think it is as low as an eighth.

5258. What does that amount to in the pound; suppose you were to sell 100*l.* worth of coal, what would it amount to?—A sixteenth would be the amount.

5259. It is not the profit, but the gross amount?—It is the value of the coal landed at the pit's mouth; not removed from there.

5260. You take a sixteenth part of the cost at the pit's mouth?—Yes; and in addition to that sum, they have rated the steam-engine and the plant separately which is necessary to raise the coal.

5261. What would that amount to per ton pretty nearly in money?—I suppose from something like 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton, or something of that kind.

5262. Have you any disputes at all with the proprietors?—No; the proprietors seem to have settled down to it very much, and acquiesced in it as a sort of inevitable thing; and there is great difficulty in establishing any proper principle to work upon. The royalty is a thing which can be got at, and the amount is not so large as to render it necessary to incur the large expenses of an appeal.

5263. You generally take about a sixteenth part, and you take 15 per cent. off that?—Yes.

5264. Have you much coal in the district in which you have these close quarries?—None.

5265. None in the same parish?—None, I think; they are separated by three or four miles.

5266. What is your opinion with regard to the rating of coal; do you think itis a high or a low rate?—I think our coal mines generally are rated too high; I think that, generally speaking, there is a disposition, particularly in the agricultural district, to rate manufacturing premises altogether at too high a standard, and not to make sufficient allowances for the uncertainty of the trade, and so forth.

5267. Have you ever taken into consideration that you are annually taking part of the fee?—Yes.

5268. Do you agree with that view?—I do not altogether to the extreme view of it; there is some allowance to be made for it; but, as I said, there is a profitable occupation, and there is the land left. That point comes into consideration very strongly, in the case of our close quarries, where the land is left just as profitable for employment after the ironstone is removed.

5269. You have not much waste?—No; only the space occupied by the shaft.

5270. What is the thickness there?—It is very variable; it is from 4 to 20 feet. In the Box district it is pretty uniform, from 12 to 20 feet.

5271. Have you various layers?—Various beds.

5272. What are between the beds?—There is nothing between them; nothing appreciable.

5273. So as to create a great deal of loss, by being brought to the surface?—Ten per cent., perhaps.

5274. Then you have very little waste deposit?—Yes; I believe in our close quarries there is next to no waste deposit.

5275. If

5275. If I collect your evidence rightly, you think it very desirable, as the anomaly exists between the close and the open works, that both should be rated, and as far as the coal goes, that the coal is rated too stringently?—Certainly; I think that the close workings should be rated; I see no reason why there should be a distinction. Mr. *J. H. Cotterell.* 16 July 1857.

5276. You think it unfair to other ratepayers that any property should be exempt?—Yes.

5277. Mr. *Philipps.*] How would you distinguish between a mine and a quarry?—The distinction that I have given evidence upon was, that a quarry was a place from which the material was got or squared, and from which it was brought in large homogeneous masses; and in the case of a mine, you follow a vein or lode.

5278. You distinguish it by the mode of working?—Yes; from the origin of the word "quarry," from the old Norman word "quarrier," to square up.

5279. Mr. *Colvile.*] Am I to assume that you propose to rate all branches of property, stock in trade, and so on; would you embrace the whole?—Certainly I would not.

5280. Where would you draw the line?—I think the rating of personal property has gone quite as far as it should.

5281. Would you call timber trees personal property?—Yes.

5282. If you say that lead and iron should be rated, you would disturb the present principle; where are you to draw the line; why should you not rate all property?—I think there is no analogy.

5283. They are each an article of property?—Yes; I suppose that if there were any convenience for the cutting down of timber and selling it upon an estate, the profit upon that, or the occupation of that, would become rateable; saw mills would be rateable; we rate plantations.

5284. Mr. *Ridley.*] You think that stock-in-trade should not be rated?—Certainly not.

5285. You do not think that coal could come under the denomination of stock-in-trade?—Certainly not; I do not see how it could.

5286. You bring up the coal to the mouth of the pit, and leave it in depôts till it is wanted; where is the difference between coal put into a store till it is wanted, and coal that is put into a shop till it is wanted?—The difference in my mind would be this: I should not consider the coal as stock-in-trade till it found its way into the coal merchant's yard; then it is stock-in-trade.

5287. In rating the coals in your country, and in calculating the deductions of which you have spoken, do you include in those deductions anything on account of the corpus of the estate?—No, we do not at present.

5288. Do you think that that ought to be considered?—Yes; I think they do not make sufficient allowance.

5289. Can you tell me whether that enters into the calculation of those who take the coal mines in your part of the country?—I do not think it does.

5290. In settling how much they shall pay for their lease of the mine, do you think they take that into consideration in your part of the country?—No.

5291. Not in the regular leases?—No, the whole thing is very loose.

5292. You are of opinion that it ought to be taken into consideration, are you not?—Yes; and I think we have sufficient material to get at a pretty near approximation of what it should be.

5293. At how many years' purchase would you calculate your mines in your district?—It is difficult to say.

5294. Ten years or not?—I have myself settled the value of mines in arbitration, and I have fixed them at from six to eight years' purchase; and I should think that would be the value of our freestone quarries, taking the uncertainties into consideration; we are very short of railway accommodation in our collieries; when we get that, it will be worth a little more.

Mr. *James Saunders Randell*, called in; and Examined.

5295. What are you?—I am a quarryman and stone merchant of the firm of Randell and Saunders, Corsham, Wilts. Mr. *J. S. Randell.*

5296. I believe you are the largest in your neighbourhood?—Yes; we do more than all the rest put together.

5297. What number of men are under your employ?—About 150.

Mr. J. S. Randell.

16 July 1857.

5298. Do you work open workings, as well as close workings?—We do not.

5299. Therefore you do not pay one fraction to the poor-rates?—We do not pay any poor-rates.

5300. Can you give us any reason, employing as you do a great many men, and making, as I hope you do, large profits, why you should not pay to the poor-rates?—Because the law does not oblige us to do so.

5301. Can you give us any reason why the open quarry should pay, and the close quarry should not?—The open quarry destroys the surface for rating, and leaves nothing but a rubble heap, which is not cultivatable; that is one reason.

5302. What is the value of land in your neighbourhood?—I really can hardly tell you.

5303. It is not very valuable land, is it?—It might be worth something like 50*l.* to 100*l.* an acre; the surface is calculated as having mineral under.

5304. What is the annual value per acre of that land?—About 2*l.* an acre, surface value.

5305. Therefore, your argument is, that as the open quarry takes away that which is rateable to the poor, it should not be rated?—It takes away the whole.

5306. Is the amount of destruction to the surface so great, as regards poor-rates, that a quarry ought on that account to be rated to the poor?—In one case the surface is destroyed for rating, because it leaves a mass of rubbish which cannot be cultivated, and, in the other case, the surface is undisturbed.

5307. Does it destroy such an amount of property, which was before rateable, as to make it essential to the rates that they should pay on the royalty?—It destroys a considerable quantity of property, because the stone ranges from four to something like 16 feet in depth, averaging 10 feet, probably, in depth; so that you run over a considerable extent of land to get out a small quantity of stone.

5308. Take an acre at 40*s.*, and let that be destroyed; what quantity of royalty do you pay?—The royalty that we should pay would be about 30*l.* on an average.

5309. So the royalty would be rather beyond what would be simply as a surface payment?—Yes.

5310. What other reason, besides, have you?—When I am speaking of royalty, I speak of the royalty for the underground quarries. I know nothing about the royalty on the open quarries; I think they pay higher than we do; in fact, I know they do.

5311. What amount of royalty do you pay?—We pay between 500*l.* and 600*l.* a-year.

5312. Do they charge you for any plant at all?—None whatever.

5313. All your workings are free to you and free to the proprietor of the soil, as regards poor-rates?—Yes; highway rates we pay.

5314. Why do you pay highway rates?—Because the law compels us to pay them; we have litigated it and tried it, but we are obliged to pay.

5315. You tried to evade the highway-rate?—Yes; we contested it.

5316. And failed?—Yes, we failed; we had to pay.

5317. I suppose the poor's-rate is a guide, in some measure, as to your highway-rate?—I really do not know on what the highway-rate is assessed.

5318. You do not know how you are assessed?—No, I do not know how we are assessed. I believe, if I remember right, it turned on the custom of the parish; I believe the law was guided by the custom of the parish.

5319. Have you ever had any unpleasant feeling in the parish because you are exempt from the poor-rates?—I hear it said sometimes that it is a shame that we do not pay; I reply by asking whether the rates are higher than they were before we began quarrying; they say "No, labour is better employed, and the rates are not so heavy."

5320. Instead of thinking you ought to be called upon to pay, you think you are a benefit to the parish?—We lower the rates, decidedly, by absorbing the labour of the parish.

5321. Labour is not much needed in your parish?—Labour was superabundant before we quarried there.

5322. You have turned the scales the other way?—Yes, we import labour.

5323. Have you raised, in consequence of your works, the price of labour to the agriculturists?—Yes, we have.

5324. Then the farmers have got this double cause of complaint; that you have raised their wages, and that you do not pay to the poor?—I do not think they can make it both ways; if they make it in one way it shuts them out from the other; all surplus labour of the district must be absorbed before wages can advance.

5325. Has any property been fresh rated within the last few years?—I am not in a position to give you the rates, but I only know from what I am told about them, that the rates on the farms are not so heavy as they were; that is from hearsay evidence, and not from my own personal knowledge.

5326. Do you know upon what principle the works in your parish are assessed?—We quarry both in Corsham and Box parish; but I cannot say on what principle the works are assessed.

5327. Would the poor-rates on your mines materially affect the value of the property?—What we pay in rates would make the mine worth so much less rent; it would make no difference in our workings; we are nearly 100 feet from the surface.

5328. Are you beginning any new works now?—You might say we are constantly doing so, because we are constantly, like the mite in the cheese, eating our way as we go.

5329. Taking that neighbourhood which you know well, do you think, if the close mines were made rateable, that the mine working would be at all difficult?—No.

5330. As far as your experience goes, would they have open and close works without any regard to the poor's rate?—I believe they would. In reply to the question with reference to the rating of underground quarries, I think that they ought to be rated; but that they ought to be rated on their occupation rental, and not on the royalty.

5331. What do you mean by occupation rental?—A way-leave. Suppose we brought stone from the lands adjoining, we should have to pay for that mineral one-tenth of what we pay for the royalty.

5332. For the right of passage?—Yes.

5333. You think it an anomaly that the open quarry should pay, and that the close quarry should not pay; but at the same time you think that the close quarry, and even the open quarry, should be very moderately rated?—I think they should be rated on their occupation, not on the amount they pay for royalty; and in the close-quarry rating I think it should be considered that it does not interfere with the surface rating.

5334. What would you call occupation in a close quarry; to what extent would you go?—I should call one-tenth occupation rental, according to our arrangement.

5335. One-tenth of the royalty?—Yes; we pay that, in fact; that is our arrangement.

5336. As I understand, you have two royalties?—We have two rentals.

5337. One is an occupation rental?—One is a way-leave or an occupation rental.

5338. Which is a tenth part of the royalty?—Yes.

5339. Are all your royalties the same?—I think not; I think ours is the only case of a way-leave in connexion with the oolitic quarries, because the others are all small quarries, and not so extensively worked.

5340. What do you pay?—We pay in Box parish 2 *s.* a yard super, let the depth of the stone be what it will.

5341. How many feet to the yard?—Three feet square. Our Corsham occupation is the larger one; it is about four times as large as the other; it is about 400 acres. We have no way-leave in Box; we do not intend to use it in connexion with any other lands. At our Corsham holding we pay 6 *d.* a ton royalty on all we get out; and if we occupy without getting it, or if we bring other stone, we pay 6 *d.* on every 10 ton way-leave.

5342. Colonel *Pennant.*] Suppose you only get out stone from your own mine, do you pay the way-leave as well as the royalty?—No; we pay 5 *s.* for 10 tons when it comes from the estate, and 6 *d.* when it comes from the adjoining estates.

5343. But you do not pay the royalty and the way-leave together?—No.

5344. The way-leave is synonymous with the occupation rent?—Yes; I should reckon that we pay 4 *s.* 6 *d.* for 10 tons for the mineral, and 6 *d.* for the occupation; we pay 5 *s.* for every 10 tons.

5345. Supposing you are getting ore out of that mine, you could not be rated on your way-leave rent?—Not now.

Mr. *J. S. Randell.*

16 July 1857.

5346. You propose that the rate should be on the occupation rent?—Yes.

5347. Supposing you were only paying royalty in that mine?—A portion of the royalty is for occupation; royalty includes a double payment. You pay for the occupation and for the substance taken.

5348. In those cases you would pay on one-tenth of the royalty?—Yes, in our case; coal mines are deeper pits, and there they pay more for way-leave.

5349. Your proposition is, that you should pay one-tenth in cases where a royalty is paid; you would be rated at one-tenth of that royalty?—Yes; in our case.

5350. And that royalty is what you can afford to give as a rent, after deducting all the working expenses and the calculation for your profit?—Royalty is what we can afford to pay for occupation and for the mineral property.

5351. After making a deduction for working expenses, and the profit you ought to make from your undertaking?—Just so.

5352. *Chairman.*] You calculate that as the rent you can afford to pay?—Yes; if we buy mineral, I look upon it as the same thing as if we bought timber or anything else; if we pay so much a ton for a lease to take timber, it is the same thing as taking a lease to take so much stone, and pay so much a ton.

5353. You take into consideration the value and cost of the plant?—Yes.

5354. Due regard being had to your outlay, and so on?—Yes, we endeavour to do so.

5355. Mr. *Colvile.*] On what basis are you rated now to the highways?—I do not know on what basis it is put; it is a matter that I left our solicitor to manage, I thought it so doubtful a question.

5356. About what highway-rate do you pay?—I really forget. I am sorry I did not look it up, to see.

5357. *Chairman.*] Have you any further remarks which you wish to make?—No, I have not.

5358. I come to the conclusion that you do not object to rates under certain provisions; but at present you think you are bound to avail yourself of the law and not pay rates?—Yes.

5359. I suppose you have hardly read the evidence that has been given here, have you?—No; I have not read it at all.

5360. Because it has been suggested by one or two very able witnesses, that we should look upon these properties as a sort of property, a part of which is absorbed annually, that part of the fee is absorbed, and therefore that we should deal with it in that way; that our calculation should be based upon the value of the fee, and that we should capitalise ten years; suppose 500 *l.* a year was the royalty paid, you would capitalise 500 *l.* a year, making 5,000 *l.* of it; and then at four per cent. you would have 200 *l.* a year, so that you would then, instead of a royalty of 500 *l.* a year, pay on a royalty of 200 *l.*?—I think that would make the rating excessive.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPERS delivered in by *R. W. Bainbridge*, Esq., and referred to in his Evidence, 9 June 1857.

ALSTON MOOR.—General Facts and Remarks.

In Alston Moor.—Greenwich Hospital's Manor.

	£.
The aggregate mining expenditure, yearly	70,000
The yearly average mining produce, 15,640 bings, at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* per bing	£. 82,110
From which deduct lessors' 1-7th duty	11,730
	70,380
Adventurers' yearly profit	£. 380
Virtually	Nil.

The number of mines, say	60	Actual number in 1856	62
Whereof yielding profits	3	—	3
Paying dues, but not yielding profits	35	—	35
New trials	22	—	24
	60		62

	£.
Total lord's dues, on an average of 9 years, 2,234 bings, at 5 *l.*	11,170
(For year 1856, 2,123 bings, at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* = £. 11,146.)	
The average lord's dues rendered by profitable mines in 1856: 1,018 bings, at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* per bing	£. 5,344
By unprofitable mines: 1,109 bings, at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* per bing	5,826
	11,170

Among the unprofitable rank the Mines of the Lead Company, which rendered 880 bings. Their ore sells at 5 *l.* 5 *s.* per bing=£. 4,620.

	£.
The existing rateable property in the parish of Alston	10,108

Proportion thereof, and of Mine Profits:

Mines: Above, but say one-half.

Rateable Property: Under, but say one-half.

From a consideration of the foregoing facts, it appears, that if Rating of Mines Bill, No. 2, should be enacted, of the parochial rates, say amounting yearly to (viz., poor's rate, 1,516 *l.*, highway rate, 251 *l.*) £. 1,767

The profitable mines would have to pay one-fourth, or	£. 442	
The unprofitable mines above, but say one-fourth, or	442	
And the pre-existing rateable property two-fourths, or	883	
		1,767

Being a relief to such rateable property of a corresponding amount.

Appendix, No. 1.

The mining revenues of the lords being devoted to a charitable use, the new mines burthen would exclusively rest upon the mining adventurers, which would be a peculiar hardship to them, and particularly to those working unprofitable mines. With respect to the latter, the new and unexpected burthen would be of so vexatious a character as to operate greatly in discouragement, and the result would probably be, their mines being thrown up in disgust, and the smaller adventurers being swallowed up in the larger; and that spirit of local enterprise, which has contributed largely to the value of rateable property, by keeping it very generally in the ownership of the fluctuating fortunate portion of mining adventurers, would be seriously and prejudicially affected.

In addition to the foregoing remarks, the following facts may be adduced:

The sick and other relief and doctors' charges, contributed from clubs and mining companies within the parish, amount yearly to		£. 1,318
Viz. Gamgill Club	£. 355	
Odd Fellows ditto	293	
Druids ditto	140	
Lead Company's fund	360	
Ditto - doctor	170	
		1,318
Whereof there arises from the employers and employees in the mines above 9-10ths, or		£. 1,186
But even assuming it at 4-5ths, or		1,054
Or as low as 3-4ths, or		988

any of these amounts are fully equivalent to what would be the mines' share of the parochial burthens which would be assessable under Rating of Mines Bill, No. 2.

Besides these direct contributions, there are the very important helps rendered by the mining adventurers in the employment at wages of their worn-out miners, rendering very inadequate labour.

LORDS' DUES rendered by LEAD COMPANY in the Parishes of *Alston* and *Middleton-in-Teesdale*, 1847 to 1856.

LEAD COMPANY'S PAYMENTS to LESSORS of MINES for DUES during the last Ten Years.

YEAR.	TEESDALE.	ALSTON MOOR.
	£.	£.
1847	4,068	5,169
1848	4,176	4,411
1849	4,305	4,928
1850	4,295	5,623
1851	7,849	4,561
1852	6,155	3,844
1853	7,102	4,247
1854	14,209	4,762
1855	12,334	4,250
1856	15,790	4,915
TOTAL £.	80,283	46,710

Upon comparing the amounts paid for Lords' dues in the several years above-mentioned, particularly as to Teesdale in the years 1847 and 1856, and in Alston Moor in the years 1850 and 1852, it appears that a mine's rateable liability on the amount of the Lords' dues would occasion great irregularity in the parochial assessments; giving a great relief to the landed interest when least needed by such interest, as when the mines are in a state of prosperity, the population is well employed, and the parochial burthens consequently light; whilst a very diminished relief would arise from the mining interest to the lands when the Lord's dues are low, either from the state of the lead market, or from the mines being poor, and employment consequently scarce, and badly remunerated.

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Mathews*, 25 June 1857.

No. 1.

Poor and Highway Rates, Corbyn's Hall Works.

	Poor's Rate.			Highway Rate.		
	Colliery.	Furnaces.	—	Colliery.	Furnaces.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1851, two levies of 1 *s.* in the £. each	116 4 –	26 17 6	at 6 *d.*	25 6 –	5 7 6
1852 - ditto - - - ditto -	163 5 –	26 17 6	at 4 *d.*	24 15 –	3 11 8
1853 - ditto - - - ditto -	204 2 –	32 5 –	at 6 *d.*	45 – 6	8 1 3
1854 - ditto - - - ditto -	187 19 –	32 5 –	at 6 *d.*	52 14 –	8 1 3
1855 - ditto - - - ditto -	145 1 –	32 5 –	at 6 *d.*	45 8 6	8 1 3
1856 - ditto - - - ditto -	55 1 –	21 10 –	at 6 *d.*	30 13 –	8 1 3
1857 - - 16th January - -	58 6 10	21 10 –	at 6 *d.*	—	—
1857 - - 13th April - -	- - -	- -	at 6 *d.*	28 18 –	10 15 –

No. 2.

Rateable Value of the Property in the Parish of *Kingswinford*, in the County of *Stafford*.

Gross Estimated Rental.	Rateable Value.	
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
5,672 15 –	5,158 11 8	Canals.
9,950 – –	9,043 11 8	Land, farm buildings, and tithes.
12,025 10 7	10,071 18 4	Works, &c.
14,960 – –	14,960 – –	Produce of coal mines.
37,161 – –	31,051 18 4	Dwelling-houses.
79,769 5 7	70,286 – –	Total.

About one-sixth taken off the rental to get the rateable value. Population in 1851, 37,303. Present population estimated at 30,000. Number of acres, 7,321.

No. 3.

Sick Payments at the Corbyn's Hall and Tiled House Collieries.

	Sick Payments.	Medical Attendance, &c.	Totals.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1851, payments for the year - - -	140 – –	- - -	140 – –
1852 - - ditto - - - - -	193 5 3	- - -	193 5 3
1853 - - ditto - - - - -	140 10 –	28 10 –	169 – –
1854 - - ditto - - - - -	144 14 –	31 10 –	176 4 –
1855 - - ditto - - - - -	129 – 2	55 – –	184 – 2
1856 - - ditto - - - - -	155 1 –	40 19 –	196 – –
£.	902 10 5	155 19 –	1,058 9 5
		Equalling - -	176 8 3 per annum.

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2. Somersetshire.
3. Staffordshire.
4. Wales.
5. Warwickshire.
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Great anomaly in the exemption of close workings, whilst open workings are rateable; expediency of the former being rated as well as the latter, 5216-5232. 5275, 5276——Proportionate value of the royalties, and of the rateable value otherwise in the parishes of Monckton, Combe, and Box, 5218-5227——Provident character generally of the quarrymen and miners, 5233-5243——Belief that the increased number of quarrymen has not led to an increased poor-rate, 5243-5245——Circumstance of some open workings having been turned into close workings expressly for the sake of avoiding the rates, 5246-5250.

Practice in regard to the rating of coal mines near Bath; varying principle followed; tendency to fix too high a rate, 5251-5275——Attention desirable to be paid to the question of the destruction of the corpus, in defining the basis of a rate on coal mines, 5267-5274. 5287-5294——Distinction between a mine and a quarry, 5277, 5278——Objection to rating all property, and stock in trade, 5279-5286——Estimate of from six to eight years' purchase as the value of freestone quarries near Bath, 5294.

Currey, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Solicitor in London, 1942——Is auditor of the large mineral property belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, 1943. 1949, 1950——The Grassington lead mines, in the parish of Linton, in Yorkshire, are the largest mines belonging to the Duke, 1945-1948. 1999——Sundry particulars relative to these mines; they are now worked by the Duke at a considerable profit, but are exempt from rates, 1951-2006. 2055-2060.

Improved value of agricultural property at Grassington, &c., in consequence of the operation of the mines, 1985-1996. 2000. 2055-2060. 2077-2083——Particulars relative to the coal and iron mines of the Duke of Devonshire in Staveley parish, Derbyshire; they are leased to Mr. Barrow at a fixed rent, the coal being rated on the royalty to the poor, and the ironstone exempt, 1999. 2007-2032——The Duke owns nearly all the land in Staveley, 2020, 2021. 2031, 2032. 2061——The lead mines of the Duke in Derbyshire are rated on the royalty, 2033.

Statement relative to Lord Burlington's iron mines in Dalton; they are leased to Mr. Schneider, and are exempt from poor-rates, 2034-2047——Witness considers that if the law of rating be altered at all, every description of property, as well as mines, should, if possible, be rated, 2048-2050. 2075-2092——The case of coal mines is exceptional; but having been rated since the time of Elizabeth, and not being subject to much risk in working, they should continue to be rated, 2051-2054. 2095-2098.

Objection to a rate on the Staveley mines, 2062——Inexpediency of a rate upon metallic mines on account of their speculative character, 2062-2064——Decided check to the working of metallic mines and to legitimate adventure if rates were imposed, 2065-2073. 2083-2087——Provision in mining leases granted by the Duke of Devonshire that all rates are to be paid by the lessee, 2073, 2074. 2100——The Duke's lead mines are sometimes let for the first year without any royalty, 2093, 2094——In some parishes the poor-rate generally would be greatly lessened in amount if mines were to pay a portion of it, 2101-2104.

Cwm Avon Iron Mines. In the case of the Cwm Avon Mines the lessors own the surface also, *Struvé* 962-965.

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Cwm Llynfell Mines. Witness is largely interested in collieries and iron mines at Cwm Llynfell, at the head of the Swansea Valley, *James* 1043, 1044, 1089——In these mines the coal and ironstone alternate, and are worked from the same shaft, *ib.* 1045, 1046——The ironstone is sold to ironworks in the neighbourhood, *ib.* 1047——The coal and iron mines at Cwm Llynfell have been worked for many years, but have not been very profitable, *ib.* 1122–1125.

D.

DALTON (LANCASHIRE):

1. *Particulars relative to the Iron Mines, and in approval of their Exemption from Rates.*
2. *Evidence in disapproval of the Exemption.*

1. *Particulars relative to the Iron Mines, and in approval of their Exemption from Rates:*

Considerable benefit conferred on the parish of Dalton by the working of the Park mine, *Schneider* 2115, *et seq.*——The poor-rate on the parish has been 1 *s.* in the pound for the last twenty years, *ib.* 2117, 2118. 2120–2122——Excellent market afforded by the mines for agricultural produce, *ib.* 2127. 2143–2145. 2147. 2153——Material increase in the rateable value of Dalton, in consequence of the mines, *ib.* 2136. 2145——Increased value of land in consequence of the mines, *ib.* 2147——Complaint formerly at Dalton on account of the mines not being subject to highway rates; justice of this complaint, which however does not now apply, as tramroads only are used by the mines, *ib.* 2189–2194.

Rateable value of Dalton parish; increase owing to the mines and railway, *Roper* 2256–2258. 2280–2282——The poor-rate is low, and has varied very little for many years, *ib.* 2257. 2273. 2294–2298——Rateable value of the land adverted to in connexion with the circumstance of its bearing the whole of the poor-rates, *ib.* 2257–2262——Considerable benefit conferred by the mines upon the agricultural population of the parish, *ib.* 2262–2264. 2273. 2286–2293. 2299, 2300——Unfairness in making the mines in Dalton and Pennington contribute to the poor-rate, *ib.* 2265–2270——Beneficial operation of clubs in the district, so that the miners are not thrown upon the parishes, *ib.* 2267–2278——If rates were imposed the lessees would not support the clubs as they now do, *ib.* 2271. 2279.

2. *Evidence in disapproval of the Exemption:*

Considerable extent of iron mining in the Dalton district, Ulverstone, more especially of late years; considerable increase of the mining population, *Simpson* 5052–5056. 5059. 5095–5097——Neither the close workings nor open workings are rated to the poor, *ib.* 5057, 5058. 5125, 5126——Increase of the rates in consequence of the mines, *ib.* 5060——Frequent and considerable relief out of the rates on account of accidents in the mines, *ib.* 5060–5065. 5081——Peculiarly heavy increase in the highway rates in Dalton, &c., in consequence of the iron mines, *ib.* 5066. 5087–5089——Large royalties paid in respect of the mines, such royalties being free from poor-rates, highway rates, and police rates; inexperience and hardship of the exemption, *ib.* 5067 *et seq.*

Complaints by the farmers in regard to the exemption, *Simpson* 5081. 5086. 5093–5096——Limited extent to which the mines are a benefit to the agricultural population, *ib.* 5083–5085. 5088–5121——Burden on the parish in the event of the mines being closed, *ib.* 5086. 5113. 5114——Partial relief to the rates through means of the miners' cottages, *ib.* 5122–5124.

Witness delivers in several returns containing particulars of the mine accidents in the Ulverstone district since 1847, and in the Dalton district since 1837, and of the consequent charge upon the poor-rates, *Simpson* 5126.

Increased rateable value of Dalton parish during the last ten years; the poor rate in the pound has not increased, *Fisher* 5131–5147——Increase of population in consequence of the extension of the iron mines in the district, *ib.* 5139–5142——Highway rate of 2*s.* in the pound for the township of Dalton for the present year; statement attributing this heavy rate to the cartage of the iron ore, *ib.* 5149–5155. 5162–5169. 5183–5186——Slight extent to which, on the whole, the mines are a benefit to the farmers, *ib.* 5159–5161. 5170–5182. 5187–5195.

See also *Park Mine.*

Derbyshire. See Kind, Reservation of Dues in.

Devonshire, Duke of. The lead mines of the Duke of Devonshire in Derbyshire are rated on the royalty, *Currey* 2033——Provision in mining leases granted by the Duke that all rates are to be paid by the lessee, *ib.* 2073, 2074. 2100——The Duke's lead mines are sometimes let for the first year without any royalty, *ib.* 2093, 2094.

See also *Grassington Lead Mines. Staveley.*

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Dickenson, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surveying valuer and agent for mineral property in Cumberland, 4956-4961——Particulars relative to several mines of iron ore or red hematite which have been opened in Whitehaven Union of late years, 4962 *et seq.*——Effect of these mines in increasing the highway rate, to which they contribute nothing; hardship thereof, 4978-4986. 5032-5037——Limited extent to which the mines are a benefit to the agricultural population, 4987-5008. 5013-5037.

Witness sees no reason why these mines should be exempt from poor-rates, 4997. 5011. 5040——Effect of a stoppage of the mines in throwing miners on the rates, 5014, 5015. 5028-5031——Uncertainty of the royalty as the basis of a rate, 5041-5043. 5046, 5047——The produce in connexion with the profit should be the basis of the rate, 5045-5047.

Dilhorn Parish (*Cheadle Union*). Very heavy poor-rate in this parish, where coal mines are extensively worked, *Weston* 2953-2955.

Dobson, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Mining engineer in Glamorganshire; is agent for a great number of mineral properties, and is manager of several collieries, 1529-1532——The South Wales mineral district consists mainly of coal and iron mines, 1534——Different systems upon which the coal is rated; no fixed principle is adopted, 1535, 1536. 1547-1550. 1569. 1578-1582. 1590-1592. 1670, 1671——Iron in South Wales, when worked by open patches or quarries, is always rated, but when mined for is not rated, 1537. 1547. 1592.

Ironstone is got more cheaply when worked by quarries than when mined for, 1538——The quantity of foreign mine imported into South Wales is considerably on the increase, 1539-1542——The expense of working Welsh mine has been greatly increased of late years, but there probably has not been much decrease in the quantity consumed, 1539, 1540. 1543——Importance and value of the Welsh mine, 1544-1546.

In some instances limestone quarries in South Wales are not rated, 1547——Great anomaly generally in regard to the rating of mines in Wales; expediency of an amended and definite system, 1547-1554. 1592-1594. 1670-1678. 1708-1711——Detailed system of rating in the case of the Llynvi Vale Works, 1549, 1550, 1562. 1569——Ironworks are at present very heavily rated, and any additional charge would be very severely felt, 1551. 1554-1571. 1706-1710.

Although ironstone is at present subject to heavy charges, witness does not see any reason why it should not, as well as coal, be rated to the poor, 1551-1554. 1593-1596. 1625-1630. 1638. 1677-1682. 1706-1711——There is no reason why black band should not be rated as well as coal, 1552. 1595-1597. 1626——The average royalty on iron mines in South Wales is about 7 *d.* a ton, 1555-1557——The average poor-rates in South Wales are about 1 *s.* in the pound, 1558-1560——A poor-rate upon the iron mines would amount to more than 1 *d.* a ton, which would be a very serious burden, 1561-1565.

Until the institution of the present Committee there was but little dissatisfaction expressed in South Wales in regard to the exemption of iron mines from rates, 1566——Slight extent to which generally the rates on ironworks would be reduced if the ironstone were rated, 1567-1569——Considerable losses incurred in mining operations in South Wales; there are very few profitable concerns, 1570. 1596——Such speculative property as mines should be rated as low as possible, 1571. 1596.

Proposition that mines, whether coal or iron, &c., must not be rated on the royalties; consideration of objections to this view of the question, 1571-1586. 1622-1636. 1694, 1695——The only fair mode of rating a mine is to rate the annual value to let; suggestions as to the mode of arriving at this rateable value or rental, 1571 *et seq.*——Necessity of making due allowance for the exhaustible nature of mines, 1571-1573. 1598-1602. 1631-1634. 1645-1650. 1666. 1683-1686.

Objections to rating the lessor, 1574-1577. 1687-1691——Reduction of the rate on the collieries in Llantrisant parish adverted to, 1578-1580——Agriculture forms a very unimportant part of industry in the South Wales mining districts, and pays but a slight proportion of the rates, 1587-1589——In some instances a rate on the ironstone would materially reduce the rate borne by the ironworks and other property, 1603-1605.

Colliers in South Wales are short-lived, but this results from intemperance rather than from their labour, 1606, 1607——The colliers in the Llynvi Valley are a shifting population, 1608——Good wages of the colliers and miners, 1609——There are trades' unions in the district, but they are not very effective, 1610, 1611——Sick and benefit clubs are general; the proprietors of the mine do not subscribe to them, 1612, 1613——The collieries and iron mines are a great benefit to the local agricultural population, who do not complain of the exemption of the mines from rates, 1614-1619. 1629——The lead mines in the district are not rated, 1620, 1621.

The works connected with mining or smelting operations are now all rated; value of these works even if the minerals from the mines connected with them were exhausted, 1651-1665——Clay ironstone is not ready for use in furnaces, until after some exposure

Dobson, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

to the air; other ironstones are at once ready for use in furnaces, in the same way as coal, 1677-1682——Difficulty as regards existing leases, whether a rate be imposed upon the lessor or lessee, 1691-1693——Belief that if the whole subject of rating were properly re-modelled, the rates would be less oppressive on mines generally than is now the case, 1692. 1706-1711.

Doctor and Club Fund. See *Sick Clubs, &c.*

Dowlais Iron Mines and Works. Explanation as to the royalty for the Great Dowlais mine being 9 *d.* in respect of coal, and only 4 *d.* in respect of ironstone, *Llewellin* 1349-1351 —— A rate on the Dowlais ironworks would be very serious, *ib.* 1355.

Witness is one of the chief agents of the Dowlais Iron Company, the largest iron concern in South Wales, *Ménélaus* 1761-1763——The Dowlais ironworks produce about 80,000 tons of finished iron in the year, *ib.* 1766——Large quantities of foreign mine used of late years at the Dowlais works in consequence of the increased expense of getting Welsh mine, *ib.* 1767-1778. 1848-1856——The royalty paid by the Dowlais company is only 4 *d.* a ton on account of the expense in getting the mine, *ib.* 1782-1784 ——Poor-rates on the company's mines would probably have prevented their being worked, *ib.* 1787-1795——Investments by the company of nearly a million in money in works and machinery on the understanding that Welsh mine was to continue exempt from rates, *ib.* 1790. 1796, 1797.

Large amount now paid by the Dowlais company in poor-rates, &c., in respect of their furnaces and other works and machinery; the mines are thus indirectly rated, *Ménélaus* 1798-1807. 1844. 1859-1865. 1884. 1893, 1894——Last year the company paid 2,577 *l.* in poor-rates, and 1,618 *l.* in other rates, *ib.* 1798-1800——The blast furnaces of the company are rated at 363 *l.* 10 *s.* each; basis of this rate, *ib.* 1801. 1844 ——Unremunerative character at present of the operations of the company, *ib.* 1819. 1831-1834.

Way in which the company are rated for their coal; the rate is fixed at so much per ton on the quantity raised, without reference to the royalty, *Ménélaus* 1835-1843. 1875-1881——The furnaces are rated upon a basis of the quantity of iron used in them, *ib.* 1844——If the red ore and Welsh mine of the Dowlais company were rated, the amount would be about 1,500 *l.* a year, *ib.* 1891, 1892.

Dues or Royalty. The only practical mode of rating the lead mines in the north would be to rate the dues actually received by the lord, *Sopwith* 42-45——A rate upon dues would not be a rate upon profits, as mines are so frequently worked at a loss, *Sopwith* 191-194; *Bainbridge* 323——Higher amounts of the lords' dues in the north than in the south of England; probable reason, *Bainbridge* 257-259. 389-391——The royalty on coal mines in South Wales is ascertained by the weight at the pit's mouth, *Struvé* 1035——Proposition that mines, whether coal or iron, &c., must not be rated on the royalties, *Dobson* 1571-1586. 1622-1636. 1694. 1695.

Varying amount of the royalty on coal mines in Wales, *Powell* 1755——Reference to some coal mines recently taken by witness's firm in Glamorganshire; reduction of the dues in consideration of the poor-rates, *Schneider* 2195-2203——Varying amount of the royalties in the Grassington mine district; those taken by the Duke of Devonshire are very low, *Eddy* 2333-2335——In Derbyshire as well as other counties the dues should be exempt from rates, *ib.* 2362, 2363——The royalty on different collieries in Staffordshire varies very considerably, *Matthews* 2467-2474. 2482——The annual value of the rent or the royalty, rather than the amount of profit should be the main element in calculating the rate; reference hereon to mines unprofitably worked, *Higginbottom* 3350-3356. 3361-3370. 3386, 3387.

Unfairness in taking the royalty on coal mines as the basis of assessment, *Wragge* 3605-3611. 3614-3617——Varying system in regard to the amount of royalties paid by lessees to the grantors, *ib.* 3633-3644. 3702——Witness does not see any connexion between the royalty and the rateable value, *ib.* 3695——The dues should be the basis of the rate, *Berkeley* 4349——Uncertainty of the royalty as the basis of a rate, *Dickenson* 5041-5043. 5046, 5047.

See also *Adventurers or Occupiers* (*Lessees*). *Basis of Rate.* *Coal Mines.* *Exhaustion of Corpus.* *Existing Leases.* *Iron Mines.* *Kind, Reservation of Dues in.* *Lords or Owners.* *Money Payments.*

Durham and Northumberland. Individuals or companies by whom the lead mines in Durham, Northumberland, and the adjacent counties are chiefly held and worked, *Sopwith* 16-20——The leases under which witness holds his coal mines in South Durham vary from twenty-one years to forty or fifty years, *Pease* 4651——Largely increased value of agricultural property in South Durham in consequence of the mines, *ib.* 4660-4664. 4699. 4716-4725——Slight alteration in the rates of Bishop's Auckland and other townships since the extension of the mines, *ib.* 4667. 4701. 4713-4719——In one year

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the highway rate in Bishop's Auckland was 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, *Pease* 4667, 4668——There is no dissatisfaction among the agriculturists in witness's neighbourhood about the exemption of the iron mines, *ib.* 4761.

The coal mines are assessed to all rates whatsoever, but do not pay tithes, *Taylor* 4784, 4785——Decrease of rates in witness's neighbourhood (North Shields) since the extension of the mines, *ib.* 4843, 4844——There is no non-rateable property in the locality, *ib.* 4845-4851-4890-4898.

See also *Accidents. Coal Mines*, I. 1.

Dysarth (*Flintshire*). Particulars showing that the parish of Dysarth is unduly rated, on account of the mining population connected with Talargoch, *Jackson* 711-728.

E.

Eddy, Stephen. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Mineral agent for the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Burlington, and others, 2310-2312——Duties of a mineral agent, as illustrated in the case of witness, 2313-2317——The largest mine superintended by witness is the Grassington lead mine, belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, and worked by him, 2318-2320. 2323——The rates in Grassington vary from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, 2321——The profits of the Grassington mine are now large, but at first 40,000 *l.* was sunk without any return, 2324.

Rating of the smelting works, cottages, and plant connected with the mine, 2325-2327. 2337-2341——The ore is carted to a considerable distance, 2328——Amount and value of the ore produced annually by the mine; it is not rated, 2329-2337——Varying amount of the royalties in the district; those taken by the Duke of Devonshire are very low, 2333-2335——The local population are always employed in the mines, and there are scarcely any mining poor, 2342——Increased value of the land and benefit to the agriculturists by reason of the mines, 2343-2348. 2355-2361.

Constitution and operation of the club attached to Grassington mine, 2349-2354——Check to mining industry if mines were rateable, 2359. 2376——Absence of injustice through the exemption of mines, 2360, 2361——In Derbyshire, as well as other counties, the dues should be exempt, 2362, 2363——Particulars relative to some slate quarries of Lord Burlington in Kirkby Ireleth parish; hardship in their being rated to the poor and highway, 2364-2375——Quarries generally should be exempt, 2377.

Education. Particulars as to the provision made jointly by the London Lead Company and their men, for the education of the miners' children, *Bainbridge* 285-288——Attention paid to education in well-conducted ironworks in South Wales, *Struvé* 980——Attention paid by Lord Granville and the North Staffordshire coal and ironmasters generally to the education of the miners, *Wragge* 3586——Provision in regard to education in witness's mines; great progress generally of late years, *Taylor* 4820-4822.

Employment. In Allandale and the adjoining parishes about one half of the population are dependent upon the mines, *Sopwith* 29-32——Belief that many lead miners would be thrown out of employment if the mines were rated to the poor, *ib.* 35. *et seq.* 72. 73——Increased local employment in consequence of mines, *James* 1073. 1211. 1225-1230——Absence of burden on the agriculturists when the employment in Welsh iron mines has been slack, *ib.* 1275-1281——Injury to the mining districts in Wales if the miners employed in getting ironstone were thrown out of work, *Llewellin* 1331, 1332——Opportunity in iron mines for always making a full day's work, *Roper* 2307.

The local population about Grassington, &c. are always employed in the mines, and there are scarcely any mining poor, *Eddy* 2342——Employment readily found elsewhere by miners whose labour is dispensed with in any colliery, *Mathews* 2458. 2549-2551——In respect to local employment, mines are generally a benefit to a neighbourhood, *Wynne* 2836——Great advantage locally of the large employment given in silk manufacture and mining operations in Warwickshire and South Staffordshire, *Whieldon* 3468-3476. 3497-3499——Previously to getting produce from the coal mines and to the levying of the rate, there is not much new population introduced, *Wragge* 3655-3658.

Enterprise. See *Speculation.*

Exemption. Origin of the exemption of lead and other mines from poor-rates whilst coal mines have always been rated, *Sopwith* 52. 202——Sound policy to continue the exemption as regards the north of England, *ib.* 52, 53. 203——Though witness considers a rate upon the lord's dues as the only feasible rate, he is strongly of opinion that mines should not be rated at all, *ib.* 180. 187, 188——As an abstract principle, it seems an injustice to rate one mine and exempt another, *Dobson* 1552——Absence of injustice through the exemption of mines, *Eddy* 2360, 2361——On the general question of rating, witness has seen nothing in the evidence to alter the views expressed in his former

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examination in 1856 in favour of continued exemption, *Smyth* 4618——As a general principle witness looks upon the rating of mines as impolitic, *Pease* 4679–4681. 4686, 4687. 4753.

See also *Anomalies of Rating. Black Band. Coal Mines*, II. *Dues or Royalty. Exhaustion of Corpus. Iron Mines. Landed Interest. Lead Mines.*

Exhaustion of Corpus. Evidence to the effect that in rating coal, iron, or other mines, due allowance should be made for the exhaustion of the property, or gradual absorption of the fee, *Sopwith* 181–186. 195, 196; *James* 1083–1088. 1169. 1201–1206. 1239–1248; *Llewellin* 1399–1403. 1524, 1525; *Dobson* 1571–1573. 1598–1602. 1631–1634. 1645–1650. 1666. 1683–1686; *Schneider* 2151, 2152. 2157–2159; *Mathews* 2446, 2447; *Smith* 2568–2570. 2587–2589. 2673–2675; *Berkeley* 4321–4326. 4351, 4352; *Pease* 4685, 4686. 4705–4708. 4777, 4778.

Questionable policy in rating mines at all, on the ground that the corpus may soon be exhausted, *Struvé* 1040——Argument that the coal is purchased, not rented, and that there is a great anomaly in the mode of levying the rate, *James* 1083–1088. 1201–1207. 1239–1248——Suggested mode of levying the rate (if a rate be determined upon) with a view to making due allowance for the exhaustion of the corpus of the mine, *Schneider* 2157–2159.

Although the corpus of the mine is exhaustible, still when exhausted there is no longer any rate to pay, *Wynne* 2791. 2847——The rating should be on the annual rent without reference to the exhaustible nature of the property, *Weston* 3071–3097

Objection to the term "rating;" the property is sold rather than leased, and the rate is in fact a tax, *Wragge* 3609, 3610. 3686–3688. 3707——Attention desirable to be paid to the question of the destruction of the corpus in defining the basis of a rate on coal mines, *Cotterell* 5267–5274. 5287–5294.

In the assessment of mines the principle should be recognised, that the working of a mine of whatever description is the using up of the corpus of the estate, and not of the mere annual produce capable of reproduction, *Rep. p.* iii.

Existing Leases. Hardship upon adventurers, under existing leases, if a rate were imposed, *Bainbridge* 319; *Mathews* 2545–2548——Difficulty as regards existing leases, whether a rate be imposed on the lessor or the lessee, *Dobson* 1691–1693——Existing lessees should be protected if ironstone be rated, *Wynne* 2822.

The fact that iron mines were taken under a system of exemption from rates should by no means prevent the infliction of rates by Parliament if the property can in fairness bear the burden, *Weston* 3069, 3070.

Exmoor. Particulars relative to the mines in the district of Exmoor worked unprofitably by witness, *Schneider* 2164–2171——If the mines had been rated witness would not have taken them at all, except for the purpose of preventing competition with his other mines, *ib.* 2167–2171——Reference to the mines of the Duchy of Cornwall in Exmoor; they are still in a state of infancy, but are likely to prove very productive, *Smyth* 4611–4617.

Explorations. Amount spent by the London Lead Company in each of the last ten years in exploring for new veins; it varies from 15,000 *l.* to 20,000 *l.* a year, *Bainbridge* 311, 312——Necessity of carrying on several exploring surveys, though they often end in failure, *ib.* 313, 314——The company have sometimes spent 10,000 *l.* or 15,000 *l.* in trials, which have been utter failures, *ib.* 313. 338——Injustice and impolicy to impose any burden upon progressive trials or exploring surveys commenced many years ago, *ib.* 315——Necessarily small expenditure annually on each exploration, *ib.* 337–339.

Explanation as to the Ebbw Vale Company and the Dowlais Company having commenced explorations in Devonshire and Somersetshire; the royalties are not yet fixed, *Llewellin* 1365. 1513–1516.

Extension of Rating (generally). Witness considers that every description of property, as well as mines, should be rated, *Currey* 2048–2050. 2075–2092; *Heath* 3784——It would probably be impracticable to rate all property, *Currey* 2089, 2090——The entire system of rating is full of anomalies; it should be readjusted, and should be extended to almost every description of property or income, *Mathews* 2476–2478. 2542–2545——As a general rule all exceptions to rating should, if possible, be done away with, *Wynne* 2845, 2846. 2864–2868——Opinion that funded property, and all other personal property, should be rated to the poor if mines are so rated; great injustice otherwise, *Whieldon* 3465–3467. 3519–3530. 3547. 3566, 3567——Objection to rating all property and stock in trade, *Cotterell* 5279–5286.

So long as coal mines and open mineral workings and quarries are assessed to the different local rates, the Committee see no reason why the rating should not be extended to all other mines, *Rep. p.* iii.

F.

Fisher, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Farmer and maltster in Dalton parish, Lancashire, 5127-5130. 5156.——Increased rateable value of the parish during the last ten years; the poor-rate in the pound has not increased, 5131-5147.——Increase of population in consequence of the extension of the iron mines in the district, 5139-5142 ——Highway rate of 2 *s.* in the pound for the township of Dalton for the present year; statement attributing this heavy rate to the cartage of the iron ore, 5149-5155. 5162-5169. 5183-5186.——Slight extent to which, on the whole, the mines are a benefit to the farmers, 5159-5161. 5170-5182. 5187-5195.

Flintshire. Opinion that a stoppage of all the lead mines in Flintshire would not affect the value of land, *Jackson* 877-879.——There is an exceeding great anxiety throughout the county of Flint that the mines should be rated, *ib.* 882.——Some of the lead proprietors are in favour of a rate, *ib.* 882, 885.

See also *Holywell. Newmarket. Talargoch Lead Mine.*

Forster, Thomas Emerson. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Mining engineer at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4903-4906; Has charge of the Seaton Delaval Colliery, of which Lord Hastings is the lessor, 4907-4913.——Concurs in the evidence of Mr. Taylor, 4914-4917. 4945, 4946.——Practice at the Seaton Delaval Colliery to take the tentale rent as the basis of rating; approval thereof, 4918 *et seq*.——The miners' cottages and all property connected with the mine are included in the tentale rent in the rating, 4937-4941. 4950-4955.——The rent is not rated until the coal is raised, 4946-4948.

Funded Property. Way in which rates upon funded property might be apportioned, *Whieldon,* 3568-3570.——*See* also *Extension of Rating.*

Furnaces. See *Iron Mines,* 4. *Plant.*

G.

Gellygare (*Wales.*) Large proportion of the Gellygare rates paid by the Dowlais Company on their coal mines, *Ménélaus* 1807-1811.

Governor and Company for Smelting Lead. See *London Lead Company.*

Grassington Lead Mines (*Yorkshire.*) The Grassington lead mines in the parish of Linton in Yorkshire, are the largest mines belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, *Currey* 1945-1948. 1999.——Sundry particulars relative to these mines; they are now worked by the Duke at a considerable profit, but are exempt from rates, *ib.* 1951-2006. 2053-2060 ——The profits have been confined to the last three or four years, *ib.* 1963. 2004 ——Constitution and operation of the sick club attached to Grassington mine, *Currey* 1973, 1974; *Eddy* 2349-2354.

Increased value of land and benefit to the agriculturists by reason of the mines, *Currey* 1985-1996. 2000. 2055-2060. 2077-2083; *Eddy* 2343-2348. 2355-2361.——The effect of a rate would be similar to raising the royalty from a thirteenth to an eleventh, and would be very inexpedient, *Currey* 2067-2073.

The largest mine superintended by witness is the Grassington lead mine belonging to the Duke of Devonshire and worked by him, *Eddy* 2318-2320. 2323.——The rates in Grassington vary from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, *ib.* 2321.——The profits of the mine are now large, but at first 40,000 *l.* was sunk without any return, *ib.* 2324.——Rating of the smelting works, cottages, and plant connected with the mine, *ib.* 2325-2327. 2337-2341.——The ore is carted to a considerable distance, *ib.* 2328.——Amount and value of of the ore produced annually by the mine; it is not rated, *ib.* 2329-2337.

Greenwich Hospital. Practice of making trial of and leasing mines held by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital in Alston Moor, &c., *Sopwith* 20.

Gwaenysgor (*Flintshire.*) Evidence showing that the parish of Gwaenysgor is heavily rated in support of the pauper miners of Talargoch without deriving any corresponding benefit from the mine, *Jackson* 691-710. 729-748.——The poor-rate is 4 *s.* in the pound, half of which is on account of pauper miners, *ib.* 692-695.——The farmers have elsewhere ready markets for their produce, which is not in any way affected by the presence of the miners, *ib.* 700-706. 747, 748. 776, 777. 781-790. 801-828. 859-864.—— If the mine stopped, the parish might for a time be worse off, but eventually the poor-rates would be lighter, *ib.* 735-746.

H.

Hales, Ralph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is surveyor for the Burslem and the Tunstall Local Boards of Health; has been connected with mines for the last twenty years, 4215–4217——Duties performed by witness as surveyor for the Burslem Board of Health, and as occasional surveyor for the guardians of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union, 4218–4222——Rating of certain property for purposes of local improvement at a deduction of three-fourths from the rental, 4218, 4219.

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Great increase in the rates in witness's district, in consequence partly, of the ironstone mines, 4234, 4235. 4240——Statistics relative to the coal and ironstone mines in Burslem and Wolstanton; extensive operations of the latter interest, which alone is exempt from rates, 4235, 4236. 4248, 4249. 4266——Less provident and settled character of the ironstone miners than of the coal miners, 4239–4241——Serious burthens caused to Burslem and other parishes, by the extension of miners' cottages, 4240. 4243——Hardship in the case of some ironstone mines of Lord Granville, the works of which are in one parish, and the miners' houses in another, 4240. 4243. 4250–4256——Considerable damage done to the highways by the traffic of the ironstone, 4244.

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Halston (*Cornwall*). Great improvement of the town of Halston, in consequence of the operation of Wheal Vor mine, *Schneider* 2181.

Harrison, Ainslie & Co. Large operations of this firm, ironmasters, near Furness, *Roper* 2251——Their mines are chiefly in Dalton and Pennington; they have never paid rates, *ib.* 2252–2254——Lessors under whom the firm holds mines; slight extent to which they are interested in the surface as compared with their receipts from the mines, *ib.* 2301–2306.

Hawkesbury Mine. The Hawkesbury colliery has been worked for upwards of a century, and has not hitherto given witness's family an adequate return for the outlay upon it, *Whieldon* 3460–3464. 3467. 3477–3490——Hardship of the poor-rate in the case of the colliery, inasmuch as it has been levied upon property worked for many years at a considerable loss, *ib.* 3531–3546——Discovery by witness of ironstone in the Hawkesbury mine, since which period, by working the coal and iron together he has been getting some return for the large outlay he had made, *ib.* 3467. 3486–3496. 3509–3577——Liability of witness to a rate upon the coal, though worked at a loss; he has, however, got a reduction in the amount rated, *ib.* 3531–3546.

Health of Miners. Lead miners are not long lived, but the majority of them exceed the average length of life, *Sopwith* 77. 165——The occupation generally of lead miners is not unhealthy, *ib.* 78, 90——The vitality of lead miners is on the whole fully up to the average, *Bainbridge* 349——Up to the age of forty-five the average mortality is less than the average generally, but after that age miners decline more rapidly than others, *ib.*

Lead miners are, as a body, short lived; the work being very unhealthy, *Jackson* 635, 636. 678. 842. 889——The occupation of a collier is much more healthy than that of a lead miner, *ib.* 841, 842. 889, 890——Colliers in South Wales are short lived, but this results from intemperance rather than from their labour, *Dobson* 1606, 1607——The lead miners at Grassington are unhealthy and short lived, *Currey* 1975, 1976. 1981——Healthy character of the occupation in iron mines, *Roper* 2308, 2309——Healthy character of colliers, *Taylor* 4835, 4836.

Heath, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Coal and ironmaster at Newcastle-under-Lyme; is Chairman of the North Staffordshire Coal and Iron Masters' Association, 3741–3744——Unfairness of the system of assessing the North Staffordshire collieries upon the royalty or mine rent, inasmuch as the royalty is in many instances portion of the purchase of the estate, 3745–3756——Computation that in proportion to the number of hands employed respectively in the earthenware manufactories and in the collieries, the latter pay nearly ten times as much as the former to the poor-rate, 3757–3762.

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Heath, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Provident character of the North Staffordshire miners, 3763-3770. 8306——Relief of sick miners in the North Staffordshire Infirmary to which they and their masters contribute largely and voluntarily, 3765. 3791-3796. 3807, 3808——Amount of the poor-rate and the Board of Health rate per ton on ironstone in the parishes of Stoke-upon-Trent, Burslem, and Wolstanton, if such rates were assessed in the same way as on coal, 3771-3778, 3833-3841——Witness does not see any reason why ironstone should not, as well as well as coal, pay rates provided they be equitably levied, 3779. 3783. 3816-3818. 3832.

In Burslem Wolstanton, &c. the rate is based on the profits, 3780-3782——Opinion that all descriptions of property as well as mines should be rated, 3784——Collieries do not derive any benefit from local improvement rates, 3785——Large proportion of the poor-rate in Wolstanton borne by the collieries, 3786, 3787. 3854, 3855——Belief that the plant connected with the collieries is not rated, 3788——Rate imposed on the furnaces, 3789, 3790.

The ironstone in the district is probably as profitable as the coal, and employs nearly as many hands, 3797-3804——Rating of the railway in communication with witness's works, 3809-3816——The rate on mines should be assessed on a certain per-centage of the royalty, that is five per cent. or less, 3819-3821——The miners are probably more provident and better cared for by their masters than the potters, 3823-3828.

Considerable benefits conferred by the mines on the landed interest and agricultural community, 3829-3832. 3842, 3843——Increased value of land in consequence of the mines, 3842——Relief afforded to the rates by the miners' houses, 3844-3851——Slight effect generally of the stoppage of a mine in deteriorating property in the neighbourhood, 3852, 3853.

Higginbottom, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has for thirteen years been employed as surveyor by the guardians of Stoke-upon-Trent, 3289-3293——Increasing amount of ironstone property in the parish, 3294-3296——Amount paid for royalties respectively on coal and ironstone; greater value of the latter, 3297-3304——Fewer accidents on the whole in the ironstone mines than the collieries, 3305, 3306.

Injustice in the exemption of ironstone mines from the highway rates, 3307-3309——Injustice in the exemption of ironstone mines from rates generally, 3309 *et seq.*——Universal feeling in Stoke-upon-Trent that the iron mines should be rated, 3310. 3323——Hardship in rating the potteries and canals whilst the iron mines are exempt, 3316-3323——Large amount paid in rates by the manufactories in the parish, 3323, 3324——Unduly small amount paid by the furnaces attached to the ironstone works, 3325-3328.

Explanation of the mode in which the rateable value of land, houses, &c. in Stoke-upon-Trent is fixed, 3329-3336. 3378-3382——There would be no greater difficulty in carrying out a rating of iron mines than of coal mines, 3337, 3338——Consideration of the practice to be adopted in the rating of iron mines; the amount of ore raised should be the basis of the rate, 3339-3343. 3347 *et seq.*——Higher amount of the rates in the pound in Stoke-upon-Trent than in adjoining agricultural parishes, 3344-3346.

The annual value to rent or the royalty, rather than the amount of profit, should be the main element in calculating the rate; reference hereon to mines unprofitably worked, 3350-3356. 3361-3370. 3386, 3387——Principle of assessment to be adopted when the proprietor works his own mine and there is no royalty paid on which to fix the rate, 3357-3360. 3371, 3372. 3388-3391——Propriety of a rate upon the buildings and plant connected with ironworks, a certain deduction being made from the gross value, 3373-3379——Instance of improved value of land by the working of neighbouring mines, 3383.

Highway Rates. As regards the highway rate in Teesdale and Alston Moor, it falls entirely on the landlord, but the London Lead Company have spent large sums on the highways, *Bainbridge* 382-384——Recent claim on witness of 10*d.* in the pound for highway rates; how levied, *James* 1170-1173——Both the works and the coal in South Wales rated for the highways, *Llewellin* 1426, 1427——Injustice in rating to the highways if the mines do not use them, *Schneider* 2194——Objection to rating ironstone mines to the highways, *Williamson* 3892.

Grievance in the agriculturists having to repair roads used mainly by owners of ironstone mines, *Wynne* 2769-2771. 2794. 2797——Injury to the roads, at the farmers' expense, in taking ironstone from one district to be converted in another, *ib.* 2794. 2860. 2885——Hardship in rating collieries and exempting iron mines, more especially as regards the highway rate, *Baker* 3166-3177; *Higginbottom* 3307-3309——Considerable damage done to the highways by the traffic of the ironstone, *Hales* 4244——Heavy highway rate in the larger townships in Durham, *Pease* 4667, 4668. 4727-4729.

See also *Burslem* (*Staffordshire*), 2. *Dalton* (*Lancashire*). *Iron Mines. Lamplugh Township* (*Cumberland*). *Longton* (*Staffordshire*).

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Higman, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—China clay merchant at St. Austell, 4358, 4359——Particulars relative to this article of merchandise; large quantity exported from St Austell, 4360-4367——The clay has always been rated to the poor, &c., 4368. 4385——Statement as to the oppressive and unjust character of this rate, 4369 *et seq.*——Statistics relative to St. Austell, showing that the clay works pay about one-seventh of the rates, whilst the mines do not pay at all, 4376-4410. 4423-4428.

Payment of the rate for the clay works upon the dues at the full assessment; a deduction of ten per cent. was for some time allowed in levying the rate, but this has been discontinued, 4393-4398. 4447-4451. 4457. 4458——Reference to the stopping of the Polgooth Mine, St. Austell; circumstance of the rates not having increased in consequence, 4403-4408. 4459-4467——Changed practice of late years to draw mining leases providing for money payments, in order to avoid the rates, 4411-4422.

In the rating of mines the royalty should be taken as the basis, but a considerable reduction should be made from the royalty, such reduction to vary according to the circumstances of the article, whether iron, copper, lead, &c., 4429-4434——Considerable local benefits to farmers and others by the working of mines, 4435-4446——Doubt whether a rate on mines would be felt by the adventurers, as the lord would not be likely to obtain the same dues, 4452-4456.

Hardship in the iron mines being exempt from both highway-rate and poor-rate, 4468-4474——Character of the clay workings; expense of the operations, 4477-4482——Wages and hours of labour of the men employed on the clay works, 4483-4487——There is not much skill required in working clay, 4489——Employment of boys at the age of fourteen or fifteen, 4490, 4491.

Holywell (*Flintshire*). About two years ago the board of guardians of Holywell, representing fourteen adjacent parishes, almost all mining, expressed an opinion, with only two dissentients, that lead mines should be rated to the poor, *Jackson* 882-888.

Hudgill Burn Mine (*Cumberland*). This mine lay unworked for about eight years after an expenditure of about 2,000*l.*; it was subsequently recommenced and proved very successful, *Sopwith* 14, 15. 206-208.

I.

Improvement Rates. Liability of the collieries managed by witness at Stoke-upon-Trent to a rate for improvements, under a local Act, *Wragge* 3708-3718——Collieries do not derive any benefit from local improvement rates, *Heath* 3785——Objection to rating ironstone mines for purposes of town improvements, *Williamson* 3867. 3871, 3872. 3899, 3900.——*See* also *Burslem* (*Staffordshire*), 3.

Injustice. See *Anomalies of Rating. Clay Works. Coal Mines. Exemption. Iron Mines. Landed Interest. Open Workings or Quarries.*

Ipstone Parish (*Cheadle Union*). Comment on the exemption from rates of some exceedingly valuable ironstone mines recently discovered in this parish, *Weston* 3086-3088. 3091-3094.

Iron Mines:

1. *Evidence generally in disapproval of a Rate.*
2. *Evidence to a contrary purport.*
3. *Considerations essential if a Rate be imposed.*
4. *Practice in rating the Plant considered; Amendment desirable.*
5. *Mines in which Coal and Iron are worked conjointly.*
6. *Cost of Working.*
7. *Amount of Royalties.*
8. *Open Workings.*
9. *Other Evidence generally.*

1. *Evidence generally in disapproval of a Rate:*

Witness considers that rating the iron mines in South Wales as the collieries are rated, would be very prejudicial to the mining interests, and very impolitic, *Struvé* 894. 910 *et seq.*——Very serious tax upon iron mines in Wales if rated to the poor; the amount, if the rates were 4*s.* in the pound, would be rather more than a penny a ton, *ib.* 906-910. 930-940. 1038, 1039——Excessive burdens upon lessees in Wales if in addition to the present very heavy tax or poor-rate upon coal there be a similar rate upon iron, *James* 1048 *et seq.*——Additional charge of about 2*d.* a ton on ironstone in witness's district if a rate were imposed, *ib.* 1062. 1094. 1103——A rate upon ironstone would constitute an additional anomaly, *ib.* 1207-1303.

A poor-rate on ironstone in Louth would be about 1½*d.* a ton, which would be a very serious burden, *Llewellin* 1356-1359——Ironworks at present are very heavily rated, and any additional charge would be very severely felt, *Dobson* 1551. 1554-1571. 1706-1710

 ——Although

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Iron Mines—continued.

1. *Evidence generally in disapproval of a Rate*—continued.

——Although ironstone is at present subject to very heavy charges, witness does not see any reason why it should not as well as coal be rated to the poor, *Dobson* 1551-1554. 1593-1596. 1625-1630. 1638. 1677-1682. 1706-1711——A poor-rate upon the iron mines would amount to more than 1*d.* a ton, which would be a very serious burden, *ib.* 1561-1565.

Strong objection to a rate upon Welsh iron mines; inability of the mines to bear any increase of burden, *Ménélaus* 1781 *et seq.*——Great difficulty attendant upon the assessment of iron mines, &c. *ib.* 1866-1874——Importance of the question of a rate upon Welsh mines on account of the effect upon the price of foreign mines and the value of the coal consumed, *ib.* 1885-1890.

Impolicy as well as injustice in extending to iron mines the system of rating of collieries, *Mathews* 2457. 2464. 2477, 2478. 2519. 2543-2548——Difficulty and hardship in rating ironstone, *Smith* 2570. 2585-2589——Extension of injustice if the poor-rate be extended to iron mines, *Whieldon* 3467. 3523-3530——Greater expense and hazard in getting ironstone than coal, *ib.* 3523-3526——Uncertain and precarious character of the iron trade of the district of Tunstall, &c., *Williamson* 3885-3887.

2. *Evidence to a contrary purport:*

Witness considers it extremely anomalous and unjust that iron mines should be exempt from rates whilst coal mines pay them, *Powell* 1723 *et seq.*; *Nixon* 1900 *et seq.*; *Baker* 3126 *et seq.*; *Cope* 3280; *Higginbottom* 3309 *et seq.*; *Hales* 4244-4246. 4271——Greater profits from iron mines than from collieries, *Powell* 1732, 1733. 1742——Hardship in the iron mines not paying towards their own poor, *ib.* 1739-1741. 1744——Equal certainty and profit in working ironstone as coal, *Nixon* 1908, 1909. 1916——The present system is unsatisfactory, but would be less so if iron mines were rated, *ib.* 1927.

Equal reason for rating iron mines as coal mines, *Rhys* 2391. 2409-2411; *Wragge* 3685; *Heath* 3779. 3783. 3816-3818. 3832; *Pease* 4705, 4706. 4736; *Dickenson* 4997. 5011-5040——Hardship in cases where the iron is raised in one parish and the ore smelted in another; instances of this, *Rhys* 2421-2426. 2433-2437——The hardship of the rate on collieries is aggravated by the exemption of iron mines, *Wynne* 2792. 2804-2806. 2825, 2826. 2835. 2862. 2870. 2877——Injustice in ironstone being raised in one parish and converted in another, the rates on the furnaces being paid to the wrong parish, *ib.* 2793-2795. 2860. 2885.

Of all descriptions of property ironstone mines are most likely to create poor, and ought to be the first to be rated; their exemption is a great anomaly and inconsistency, *Weston* 3003-3010. 3042-3045. 3082-3087——There would be no greater difficulty in carrying out a rating of iron mines than of coal mines, *Higginbottom* 3337, 3338——The ironstone in the North Staffordshire district is as profitable as the coal, or more so, and employs nearly as many hands, *Wragge* 3663-3673; *Heath* 3797-3804——Witness does not see any objection to the rating of ironstone mines to the poor, but does object to their being rated for any other purpose, *Williamson* 3867. 3888. 3892-3900——Hardship in the iron mines being exempt from both highway-rate and poor-rate, *Lowndes* 4072-4074. 4183, 4184; *Higman* 4468-4474——Hardship in the case of some ironstone mines of Lord Granville, the works of which are in one parish and the miners' houses in another, *Hales* 4240. 4243. 4250-4256.

3. *Considerations essential if a Rate be imposed:*

Iron mines, if worked alone, should bear some portion of the poor-rate, *James* 1076-1078. 1083-1088——The injustice would consist in rating the ironstone in the same way and as well as the coal when both are worked together; they should in fact be rated separately according to a just basis, *ib.* 1076-1078. 1083-1088——Witness does not say that the royalties of iron mines should not be rated at all; they should however be very liberally dealt with, *Llewellin* 1487-1491——Propriety of an amended system of rating where there are collieries and iron mines belonging to different preprietors in the same parish, *Ménélaus* 1818-1829. 1857-1865——If the proposed rate on iron mines were equitably based, and the corpus question duly considered, disaffection would not be felt by the colliery owners in witness's district, *Mathews* 2679-2685.

4. *Practice in rating the Plant considered; Amendment desirable:*

In rating the blast furnaces, on which the rate is sometimes heavy, it may be considered that the iron mine itself is rated, *Struvé* 897-904. 1041, 1042——All the works connected with the iron mines in Wales are rated to the poor-rate and highway-rate, *ib.* 1013. 1015——The blast furnaces, plant and machinery connected with the ironworks in South Wales are rated very heavily, in fact as much so as they can possibly bear, *Llewellin* 1321 *et seq.*——In the parishes known to witness the mineral proprietors pay the largest proportion of the rates, *ib.* 1321. 1380——In estimating the rateable value of

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4. *Practice in rating the Plant considered; Amendment desirable*—continued.

of the furnaces in witness's parish, coal and limestone are taken into account, but not the ironstone consumed, *Llewellin* 1322–1325. 1463–1468. 1499–1501——Tendency of different assessments of ironworks to cause an increase in the rates, *ib.* 1447–1456.

Slight extent to which generally the rates on ironworks would be reduced if the ironstone were rated, *Dobson* 1567–1569——In some instances a rate on the ironstone would materially reduce the rate borne by the ironworks as well as other property, *ib.* 1603–1605——The works connected with mining or smelting operations in South Wales are now all rated; value of these works, even if the minerals from the mines connected with them were exhausted, *ib.* 1651–1665——If the ironstone be rated the rate on the furnaces, &c. must be reduced, *Ménélaus* 1857–1873.

The rate borne by the plant connected with iron mines does not justify the exemption of the mine, *Nixon* 1930–1941.

Unduly large rate now levied on ironworks on account of the mines being exempt; steps should be taken to remedy this, if the mines are also to be rated, *Rhys* 2391–2395. 2413–2420. 2426–2432——Large contributions to the poor-rates by ironworks, miners' cottages, and surface land, *Mathews* 2449. 2452. 2459. 2496. 2520–2523. 2533–2535——Ironworks are rated in much the same way as houses, *ib.* 2479–2481——Basis on which ironworks near Dudley are rated; there is never much dispute, *Smith* 2628–2633.

Doubt as to the machinery and furnaces for converting iron being rated too highly, *Wynne* 2840–2860——The plant used merely in raising the ironstone is of small value, and does not pay much towards the rates, *ib.* 2883–2885——Comment on the exemption of the plant, tramway, &c. in connexion with the ironstone mines in North Staffordshire being exempt rates, whilst the tramway and plant used in working the collieries and lime quarries are rated very heavily indeed, *Weston* 2976–2982. 3046–3060.

Propriety of a rate upon the buildings and plant connected with ironworks, a certain deduction being made from the gross value, *Higginbottom* 3373–3379——Belief that the engines and engine-houses connected with the iron mines in North Staffordshire are rated; they ought to be rated, *Wragge* 3673–3680. 3703, 3704——Rate imposed on the furnaces in Stoke-upon-Trent, &c. *Heath* 3789, 3790——Rate upon the coke ovens adverted to, as being a rate twice over for the same thing, *Pease* 4749–4752.

5. *Mines in which Coal and Iron are worked conjointly:*

The iron and coal being often worked by the same shafts and the same machinery, it would be difficult to apportion the rate between the two, *Struvé* 894–896. 905——Doubt whether a mine in which iron and coal alternate is more valuable than a mine in which there is only coal, *ib.* 947–954——Means by which iron coming out of a mine, which also produced coal, might be rated, *ib.* 955–957. 1017–1019——Much larger receipts from the ironstone which is exempt, than from the coal which is rated, *James* 1104–1106. 1282–1287——Greater expense in working the ironstone than the coal, *ib.* 1107–1110.

It rarely happens that the coal and ironstone can be worked together, as in the case of Mr. James's mines, *Llewellin* 1340. 1507–1509——The ironstone in the Dudley district is generally held by the colliery owners, the coal being rated whilst the iron is exempt, *Smith* 2615–2619——Where coal and iron are worked in the same mine, there need be no difficulty about the rate on each, *Higginbottom* 3340–3343.

Witness is proprietor of considerable mines of coal and ironstone near Coventry, *Whieldon* 3452, 3453. 3458, 3459——The coal is rated to the poor, and the ironstone is not rated, *ib.* 3454, 3455——Remarks on the circumstance of the ironstone discovered by witness being exempt from rates, whilst there is a rate upon the coal got from the same mine (Hawkesbury mine), *ib.* 3504–3520.

6. *Cost of Working:*

Increased expense of late years in getting Welsh mine; consequent import of hematite to mix with it, *Struvé* 911–919. 958–961——Great expense of late years in working the native ironstone and getting a sufficient supply, *James* 1055–1059; *Llewellin* 1330. 1336–1338. 1469. 1503–1508——The expense of working Welsh mine has been greatly increased of late years, but there probably has not been much decrease in the quantity consumed, *Dobson* 1539, 1540. 1543.

The increased expense of getting Welsh mine is owing to the patches or quarries being worked up, and to the necessity of deep working, *Powell* 1729; *Nixon* 1901, 1902.

7. *Amount of Royalties:*

The common royalty for iron mines in Wales is 6 *d.* a ton, but it is sometimes as much as 9 *d.*, *Struvé* 906. 908, 909——Tendency of the increased expense in raising iron ore to reduce the royalties, *ib.* 1026–1028——The royalty in witness's district is generally from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.*, but in some cases is as low as 7 *d.* a ton, *James* 1062, 1063. 1080——

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IRON MINES—continued.

7. *Amount of Royalties—continued.*

The average royalty on ironstone in South Wales is about 7 *d.* or 8 *d.* a ton, *Llewellin* 1348–1352. 1356——Relative value in the aggregate of the royalty on ironstone and on coal, *Mathews* 2536–2538——The royalty averages about 7 *d.* a ton, *Dobson* 1555–1557.

8. *Open Workings:*

Ironstone in South Wales, when worked by open patches or quarries, is always rated; but when mined for is not rated, *James* 1413, 1414; *Dobson* 1537. 1547. 1592——Less expense in working ironstone in open quarries than in mines, *Llewellin* 1517, 1518; *Dobson* 1538.

9. *Other Evidence generally:*

Importance of Welsh mine on account of its good quality, *James* 1060, 1061; *Llewellin* 1333–1335; *Dobson* 1544–1546; *Ménélaus* 1778–1780. 1852——The native ores consumed in South Wales are almost invariably worked by the iron masters themselves, *Llewellin* 1319, 1320——Increased importation of hematite and foreign ore to mix with the Welsh ore, *Llewellin* 1330. 1341–1344. 1470, 1471; *Dobson* 1539–1542; *Powell* 1728, 1729——Clay ironstone is not ready for use in furnaces until after some exposure to the air; other ironstones are at once ready for use in furnaces in the same way as coal, *Dobson* 1677–1682——Present price per ton of iron rails and pigs, *Ménélaus* 1846, 1847.

The iron mines in the parishes of Aberdare and Llanvinno are not rated to the poor, whilst the steam coal collieries are rated, *Nixon* 1897–1899——Exemption of the ironstone in witness's district about Dudley from rates; there are no open workings, *Smith* 2610–2614——Occasional stocking of ironstone in consequence of the state of the trade; this is done with a view to ultimate advantage, *Baker* 3197. 3234–3238——Slight increase of the value of ironstone by calcination; there need be no difficulty hereon in regard to the imposition of a rate, *M'Intyre* 3958–3960. 3974, 3975. 3984. 3986——Doubt whether the ironstone in Durham, &c. has been more profitable than the coal, *Pease* 4742.

See also *Aberdare (Wales). Accidents. Anomalies of Rating. Basis of Rate. Burslem (Staffordshire). Calstock (Cornwall). Charnock Valley. Cheadle (Staffordshire). Cleer, St. (Cornwall). Cleveland Iron Mines. Cwm Llynfell Mines. Dalton (Lancashire). Dowlais Iron Mines and Works. Dues or Royalty. Exemption. Exhaustion of Corpus. Existing Leases. Hawkesbury Mine. Highway Rates. Landed Interest. Merthyr. Money Payments. Open Workings or Quarries. Park Mine (Lancashire). Plant. Speculation. Staffordshire. Stoke-upon-Trent. Tunstall (Staffordshire). Unprofitable Mines. Wales. Whitehaven. Wolstanton and Burslem Union.*

J.

Jachson, Rev. Richard Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Newmarket in Flintshire, 605, 606——The Talargoch Mine, the largest lead mine in Flintshire, lies in witness's immediate neighbourhood, 607, 608——This mine has been worked for a great number of years and has been profitable, 609–611. 621. 749–752——It employs about 500 persons, including boys and washers, 612–614——Wages or earnings of the miners; increase to about 15*s.* a week since a strike in 1853; 615–620.

The royalty of the Talargoch Mine is about 2,000*l.* a year, that is about a fourteenth, 621, 622——The proprietors of the underground are also proprietors of the surface, except that the Bishop of St. Asaph has some mineral rights only; particulars hereon; 623–628. 763. 848–858——There are many landowners in the district who are not at all interested in the mine, 629——The adventurers live for the most part at Holywell, which is seven or eight miles distant, 630–634.

Lead miners are, as a body, short-lived, the work being very unhealthy, 635, 636. 678. 842. 889——The ventilation of the Talargoch Mine is good, and the miners are in other respects well cared for, 637, 638——Particulars as to the provision made for the education of the children of the miners and others; contributions by which the school was built, 639–650——Heavy burden cast upon the Talargoch rate-payers by the pauperism of miners, 651, 652. 658–663.

The pauperism arising from Talargoch mine is very severely felt in adjoining parishes where the miners chiefly reside, 652–654. 663 *et seq.*——There is no sick club attached to the mine, nor any relief given by the adventurers, but there are several benefit societies, &c. supported by the miners themselves, 655–657. 668, 669. 753–756——Evidence showing that Newmarket parish is heavily rated for the pauper miners of Talargoch without deriving any corresponding benefit from the mine, 663–690. 747 *et seq.*

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Jackson, Rev. Richard Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Increased burden for a time upon the adjoining parishes if the Talargoch mine stopped; some iron mines recently opened would lighten the burden by giving employment, 679. 686. 699. 725-728. 735-746. 773-775 —— As regards the agricultural produce in the neighbourhood of the mine, witness states that markets are obtained at Liverpool, Rhyl, Holyhead, &c., independently of the miners, and that on this score the latter are of little if any advantage to the farmers, 680, 681. 700-706. 747, 748. 776, 777. 781-790. 801-828. 859-864. 874 —— Continual complaints by the farmers in consequence of their maintenance of the mining poor, 682.

Evidence showing that the parish of Gwaenysgor is heavily rated in support of the pauper miners of Talargoch, without deriving any corresponding benefit from the mine, 691-710. 729-748——Eventually it would be a good thing for the adjacent parishes if the mine stopped, but for some time an increased rate would be the result, 707, 708. 735-747. 791-797 —— Particulars showing that the parish of Dysarth is also unduly rated on account of the mining population connected with Talargoch, 711-728.

The mining population near Talargoch were for the most part born in the place, and would, under any circumstances, have gained a settlement in the parishes, 729-732. 766-772 —— Belief that the value of the land adjacent to Talargoch is not increased or affected by the mine, 748. 801-840. 865. 877-879 —— Operation of the doctor's fund; it is raised by the miners, 754-756 ——When the miner is worn out, and friendless, his support must fall on the agriculturists, unless he has saved for his old age, 757 —— The under-ground rights are quite distinct from the surface rights, 758, 759——The miner is rated for his tenement, but this produces only a very small proportion of the rate, 758. 766-768. 780.

Doubt whether the royalty or the miners are rated to the highway, 760-762. 778, 779 —— Belief that the royalty is paid in kind, 764 —— The lords' dues have not been rated to the poor, 765——Frequent instances of miners dying young and leaving their families chargeable to the parish, 772. 889——Opinion that if the mines were shut up but a small proportion of the miners would leave the place; Talargoch may be exceptional in this respect, 791-794.

The lords do not contribute by law any portion of the royalty towards the Church, 798-800 —— The rates in a parish adjoining Newmarket, in which there are some collieries but no lead mines, are only half those of the rates of Newmarket, 841 —— The occupation of a collier is much more healthy than that of a lead miner, 841, 842. 889, 890 ——The lead in Flintshire is principally carried by railway from the smelting works to the place of shipment, 844-846——Question as to the poor-rates eventually falling on the lords, as being for the most part the owners of the surface, 847-854.

Circumstance of the working miner, who has built a cottage out of his savings, being rated for it, whilst the royalty is not rated, 866-873 ——Belief as to the long continuance of the lease under which the Talargoch mine is held, 875, 876 ——Opinion that a stoppage of all the lead mines in Flintshire would not affect the value of land, 877-879 ——Probable reasons why the miner does not complain that whilst his cottage is rated the royalty is exempt, 880.

There is an exceeding great anxiety throughout the county of Flint that the mines should be rated, 882——Some of the lead proprietors are in favour of a rate, 882. 885 ——About two years ago the Board of Guardians of Holywell, representing fourteen adjacent parishes, almost all mining, expressed an opinion, with only two dissentients, that lead mines should be rated to the poor, 882-888——Witness is in no way interested in the taxing or non-taxing of mines, 890.

James, John William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is largely interested in collieries and iron mines at Cwm Llynfell at the head of the Swansea Valley, 1043, 1044. 1089—— In these mines the coal and ironstone alternate, and are worked from the same shaft, 1045, 1046——The ironstone is sold to ironworks in the neighbourhood, 1047.

Excessive burden upon lessees of mines in Wales, if, in addition to the present very heavy tax, or poor-rate, upon coal, there be a similar rate upon iron, 1048, *et seq.*—— Collieries are already rated more highly than they ought to be, 1048-1053. 1076, 1077 ——Increasing expense of working ironstone mines in the neighbourhood of Merthyr, 1055-1059——Valuable quality of the Welsh iron, 1060, 1061.

Additional charge of about 2*d.* a ton on ironstone in witness's district if a rate were imposed, 1062. 1094-1103——The royalty in the district is generally from 9*d.* to 1*s.*, but in some cases is as low as 7*d.*, 1062, 1063, 1080——Probable check to negotiations between lessors and lessees if a rate were imposed either on the ironstone or the royalty, 1064-1067. 1079-1082——Belief that the existence of an iron mine in any parish tends to a reduction rather than an increase of the poor-rate on account of the several local advantages which its working confers; these advantages explained, 1068-1074. 1142-1148. 1190-1196. 1214-1230. 1265-1274.

Absence of special complaint on the part of miners in regard to the rating of their cottages whilst the iron mine is exempt, 1075. 1165-1168——Opinion that iron mines

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James, John William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

if worked alone should bear some proportion of the poor-rate, 1076——The injustice would consist in rating the ironstone in the same way, and as well as the coal when both are worked together; they should in fact be rated separately according to a just basis, 1076–1078. 1083–1088.

Statement as to the injustice of rating collieries as though the corpus were inexhaustible; the same argument applies to a rate upon iron mines, 1083–1088. 1169. 1201–1206. 1239–1248——Larger proportion of the poor-rates paid by the agriculturists than the mining interest in the parish containing witness's mines, 1089–1093——Much larger receipts from the ironstone which is exempt than from the coal which is rated, 1104–1106. 1282–1287——Greater expense in working the ironstone than the coal, 1107–1110——Anomaly in the rating of ironstone raised from open workings whilst that raised from underground workings is exempt, 1111–1121.

There are several anomalies in regard to the general matter of rating to the poor, such for instance as the exemption of shipping, &c., 1114–1116. 1169. 1249, 1250——Distinction between a mine and a quarry or open working, 1118–1120——The coal and iron mines at Cwm Llynfell have been worked for many years, but have not been very profitable, 1122–1125——Mode of assessment of witness's collieries to the poor and highway rates; deduction from the full amount of the valuation, 1124–1130. 1170–1174. 1177–1180. 1251–1254.

Rating of a railway and canal near witness's iron mines, 1131–1141. 1197–1200——Statement to the effect that in witness's district the colliers or miners are not in sickness or old age, or through the stopping of the mines, thrown upon the agriculturists for support, 1148–1164. 1234–1238. 1275. 1281. 1304–1313——Good wages of the miners and colliers; they are much higher than the wages of agricultural labourers, 1150. 1163. 1210–1212——Provident character of the miners, as shown by their clubs and their savings, 1151–1155. 1164——Liability of lessees in the Swansea Valley, and not of the lessors, to pay any rates which may be imposed, 1175–1178——Separate rate upon the royalty for coal mines and upon the plant, 1179.

Injustice to the agriculturists if compelled to bear the burden of the support of the mining poor without any corresponding benefit, 1181–1190——Approval of a system of rating the plant and buildings, and the land occupied in working collieries or mines, rather than the minerals, 1201–1206——Instances of anomaly in regard to rating on account of different arrangements as to the terms of working, 1204–1206. 1231–1236. 1243–1248. 1255–1264. 1288–1302——A rate upon ironstone would constitute an additional anomaly, 1207. 1303.

The royalties for collieries are rated by the ton, 1213——The increase of miners' cottages, built by themselves and rated to the poor, is very great, 1216–1225——On the working out of a mine the mining population would obtain employment in other districts, and not remain a burden on the rates, 1236–1238. 1304–1306——Circumstances under which the stoppage of a mine might entail a burden upon the parish in which it was situated, 1265–1274. 1310–1313.

Absence of burden on the agriculturists when the employment in Welsh iron mines has been slack, 1275–1281——Rare instances of the abandonment of colliery districts in South Wales, 1304–1306. 1310——Employment in the mines of the children of miners, more especially of orphans, so that they are not thrown upon the rates, 1307, 1308——Witness complains that coal mines are rated, and not that iron mines are exempt, 1309.

K.

Kidsgrove District (*North Staffordshire*). Particulars relative to the Kidsgrove district where the population are exclusively miners, *Lowndes* 4063–4071.

Kind, Reservation of Dues in. Although mines (other than coal mines) are not as such rateable, yet, where the royalty or due is reserved in kind, it is held to be rateable on the legal principle, that the lord who receives it is an occupier of land, and, as such, is subject to be rated for his occupation under the statute of the forty-third of Elizabeth, *Rep. p.* iii.

The reservation of royalties in kind appears, from the evidence, to be still the practice in Derbyshire, and in some districts of Cornwall, and to have been the universal practice in Cornwall till the year 1832, *Rep. p.* iii.

Kingswinford. Considerable increase in the value of land in the parish in consequence of the mines, *Mathews* 2448. 2453. 2458. 2485–2489——Reference to a paper (*App. p.* 297) showing the amount paid by witness's collieries in Kingswinford in poor's-rate and highway-rate in each year since 1851, *ib.* 2449——There are a great many coal mines in Kingswinford, and a good many proprietors, *ib.* 2465, 2466——Voluntary payments of highway rates by the mine-owners in the parish, *ib.* 2449, 2450. 2512.

Statement

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Kingswinford—continued.

Statement (*App. p.* 297) of the rateable value of the several descriptions of property in the parish, *Mathews* 2450–2452——About one-sixth is taken off the rental to get at the rateable value, *ib.* 2451——Improbability of a stoppage of the mines in Kingswinford, *ib.* 2490——The poor-rate in the parish is 2 *s.* in the pound; it has not varied much, *ib.* 2491–2494——Amicable arrangements under which the collieries pay their portion of the rates, *ib.* 2507–2517.

L.

Lamplugh Township (*Cumberland*). Increased highway rates in this township, in consequence of the iron mines, *Dickenson* 4978–4986.

Lancashire. See *Dalton. Park Mine. Urswick.*

Landed Interest. Evidence to the effect that at Alston Moor, Teesdale, &c., it is the mines that have given value to the lands and houses, and that in consideration of such increased value, it is perfectly fair that the poor-rate should be borne exclusively by the latter, *Bainbridge* 340 *et seq.* 404 *et seq.*——Although not more than one-tenth of the population may be agricultural, witness contends that they should in justice pay the whole of the poor-rate, *ib.* 404 *et seq.* 471–489——Belief that generally, as well as at Teesdale, Alston Moor, &c., mines offer such advantages to the landed population it is no hardship to throw the entire rates upon the latter, *ib.* 461–470——If there were no mining operations the agricultural interests would be worse off, *ib.* 462.

When the miner at Talargoch, &c., is worn out and friendless, his support must fall on the agriculturist, unless he has saved for his old age, *Jackson* 757.

In the Aberdare and other districts the landowners are fully compensated for any increased rate by the increased value of their property in consequence of the mines, *Struvé* 922–927. 965–978——Benefits locally given by coal mines as well as by iron mines, *ib.* 1023–1025——Belief that the existence of an iron mine in any parish tends to a reduction rather than an increase of the poor-rate on account of the several local advantages which its working confers; these advantages explained, *James* 1068–1074. 1142–1148. 1190–1196. 1214–1230. 1265–1274.

Great increase in the value of land and property in consequence of the mines, *James* 1142, 1143. 1191–1196. 1214, 1215. 1265, 1266; *Llewellin* 1370–1375. 1391. 1438–1446; *Currey* 1985–1996. 2000. 2055–2060. 2077–2083; *Smith* 2577, 2578. 2583, 2584. 2598. 2620, 2621. 2661. 2668; *Higginbottom* 3383; *Whieldon* 3174; *Heath* 3829–3832. 3842, 3843——Improvement caused by the mines in the value of agricultural produce, *James* 1147. 1159–1162; *Llewellin* 1386–1390. 1472. 1483, 1484; *Smith* 2605. 2622; *Pease* 4662, 4663; *Taylor* 4823.

Statement to the effect that in witness's district the colliers or miners are not in sickness or old age thrown upon the agriculturists for support through the stopping of the mines, *James* 1148–1164. 1234–1238. 1275–1281. 1304–1313——Injustice to the agriculturists if compelled to bear the burden of the support of the mining poor without any corresponding benefit, *ib.* 1181–1190.

On the cottages and the works the mining interest pays an ample share of the rates, and the agriculturists have no ground for complaint, *Llewellin* 1380–1384. 1410. 1423. 1480——Considerable employment given by the mines to the horses of farmers, *ib.* 1385. 1472——Opinion that the agriculturists are indirectly benefited by the mines fully to the extent of any extra poor-rate thrown upon them, *ib.* 1405–1410. 1472——Feeling generally of agriculturists in favour of the operation of mines in their neighbourhood, *ib.* 1472, 1473.

The collieries and iron mines are a great benefit to the local agricultural population in witness's neighbourhood, who do not complain of the exemption of the mines from rates, *Dobson* 1614 1619. 1629——Detriment to agriculturists in having to maintain the mining poor, *Rhys* 2438.

Great benefits conferred on the local agricultural interest by the operation of mines; instance of this in the parish of Kingswinford, where the land and its produce have been much improved in value, *Mathews* 2448. 2453. 2458. 2485–2489——Satisfaction to farmers when new collieries are opened, *ib.* 2552——Witness has never heard of any district being pauperised through the establishment of a colliery, *ib.* 2553——If it can be proved that the burden of maintaining the mining poor in any district is thrown upon the agriculturists it certainly is not just, *ib.* 2686, 2687.

Increase of population and increase of pauperism where mines are opened, *Smith* 2574, 2575——On the whole mines are a great boon to the agricultural population, and are not any hardship in being exempt from rates, *ib.* 2605. 2620–2627.

Witness is decidedly of opinion that the exemption of iron mines is an injustice to the agriculturists, *Baker* 3126 *et seq.* 3217, 3218——In the case of Wolverhampton, Dudley, and other places, the existence of mines has doubtless been conducive to prosperity, *ib.* 3204, 3211.

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Considerable local benefits to farmers and others by the working of mines, *Higman* 4435-4446——Local benefit from the mines whilst prosperous, *Simpson* 5086. 5115.

See also *Accidents. Allandale. Alston Moor. Burslem* (*Staffordshire*), 1. 5. *Cheadle* (*Staffordshire*). *Cleveland Iron Mines. Dalton* (*Lancashire*). *Durham and Northumberland. Employment Flintshire. Gwaenysgor* (*Flintshire*). *Highway Rates. Iron Mines. Liskeard* (*Cornwall*). *Newmarket* (*Flintshire*). *Stoke-upon-Trent*, 3. 4. *Strikes. Talargoch Lead Mine* (*Flintshire*). *Tunstall* (*Staffordshire*). *Walstanton and Burslem Union.*

Lanlivery (*Cornwall*). The poor-rates, on the average of four years past, have been only 2*s.* in the pound, *Smyth* 4574-4577.——*See* also *Restormel Mine.*

Lead Mines. Payments of the rents of lead mines in the north usually by a royalty charge upon the produce, *Sopwith* 21-25. 45.——With the exception of Mr. Beaumont's lease-hold lead mines in Weardale and a few others, the lead mines in the north are exempt from poor-rates, *ib.* 27, 28.——The mining population does not, to any great extent, become a burden upon the poor-rates, *ib.* 33——Grounds for the conclusion that a rate upon the lead mines in Allandale or other districts would be very detrimental to the mining interests, and would check investment of capital and employment, *ib.* 34 *et seq.* ——Disapproval of a rate upon lead mines, the working not being a beneficial occupation, *ib.* 65——The miners have mostly small farms to which they attend; these farms are rateable, *ib.* 79, 80——Variations in the quality of lead in different mines; the quantity however is the test of the profit, *ib.* 88, 89.

Just grounds on which the Legislature in the time of Queen Elizabeth intended, as witness considers, to exempt lead mines from poor-rates, *Bainbridge* 233. 241——On account of the risk and uncertainty it is perfectly fair that lead mines should be exempt, *ib.* 233. 410——Witness further repeats his opinion that lead mines should not be rated at all, *ib.* 318-321. 340 *et seq.*——Impolicy of imposing a rate upon the lead mines generally, *Bradley* 519-521.

The lead in Flintshire is principally carried by railway from the smelting works to the place of shipment, *Jackson* 844-846——The lead mines in the South Wales district are not rated, *Dobson* 1620, 1621.

Reference to the evidence given of peculiar customs existing in Derbyshire, as showing that the lord's dues arising from lead mines in that county are taken in kind, and are assessed both to the poor and highway rates, *Rep. p.* iii.

See also *Accidents. Allandale. Alston Moor. Beaumont, Mr. Devonshire, Duke of. Dues or Royalty. Exemption. Flintshire. Grassington Lead Mines* (*Yorkshire*). *Health of Miners. London Lead Company. Money Payments. Swaledale. Talargoch Lead Mine* (*Flintshire.*) *Teesdale. Weardale. Westmoreland.*

Lessees. See *Adventurers or Occupiers.*

Lessors. See *Lords or Owners.*

Limestone. In South Wales limestone, which is raised by open excavations, is rated generally at 3*d.* a ton, *Llewellin* 1411, 1412. 1462——In Trevethan parish the royalty for lime is about 3*d.* or 4*d.* a ton, *ib.* 1463——In some instances limestone quarries in South Wales are not rated, *Dobson* 1547——The Dowlais Iron Company pay a rate of 2*d.* a ton on limestone, *Ménélaus* 1801——Liability of limestone to rates when it is quarried, but not when it is mined, *Smith* 2570-2573. 2606-2608.

Reference to some limestone quarries in North Staffordshire which are rated to the poor on the full royalty; the proprietors feel aggrieved by the rate, *Wynne* 2735-2751 —— Reference to some extensive limestone quarries in the parishes of Caldon and Colton which pay very heavily to the poor-rates, *Weston* 2962-2972——There are a great many accidents in the lime quarries, *ib.* 2971, 2972——At Froghill and Calton there are several lime pits or kilns, all of which are rated, *ib.* 2983-2985.

See also *Open Workings or Quarries.*

Linton (*Yorkshire*). See *Grassington Lead Mines.*

Liskeard (*Cornwall*). General feeling about Liskeard that the mines should be rated, *Berkeley* 4316. 4319, 4320——Amount of relief afforded respectively to miners and agriculturists in the four parishes of Calstock, St. Ives, Linkinhorne, and St. Cleer; injustice herein of the non-rateability of the mines, *ib.* 4355-4357.

Llantrisant Parish. Reduction of the rate on collieries in Llantrisant parish adverted to, *Dobson* 1578-1580.

Llewellin, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—As mineral agent in South Wales has for many years been largely consulted by Mr. Hanbury Leigh and other large proprietors of mines, 1314-1318——The native ores consumed in South Wales are almost invariably worked by the iron-masters themselves, 1319, 1320——The plant and machinery connected

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Llewellin, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

nected with the ironworks are rated very heavily, in fact as much so as they can possibly bear, 1321 *et seq.*

In the parishes known to witness the mineral proprietors pay the largest proportion of the rates, 1321. 1380——In estimating the rateable value of the furnaces in witness's parish, coal and limestone are taken into account, but not the ironstone consumed, 1322–1325. 1463–1468. 1499–1501——Coal is not separately rated in the parish in which witness resides, 1326, 1327——In the parish of Trevethan (witness's parish), as well as in various other districts of South Wales, speculations in connexion with iron works have been most disastrous; instances thereof, 1328–1330. 1352–1355. 1394. 1415. 1424, 1425. 1474–1476.

Great expense of late years in working the native ironstone and getting a sufficient supply, 1330. 1336–1338. 1469. 1503–1508——Increased importation of hematite and foreign ore to mix with the Welsh ore, 1330. 1341–1344. 1470, 1471——Injury to the mining districts in Wales if the miners employed in getting ironstone were thrown out of work, 1331, 1332——Excellent quality of the Welsh iron, 1333–1335——Injury to the agricultural population if any additional burden stopped the working of the iron mines, 1339.

It rarely happens that the coal and ironstone can be worked together, as in the case of Mr. James's mines, 1340. 1507–1509——Negotiations for leases having been frequently broken off owing to a difference about a penny in the royalty, 1345–1347——The average royalty on ironstone in South Wales is about 7½*d.* or 8*d.* per ton, 1348–1352. 1356——A poor-rate on ironstone would be about 1½*d.* a ton, which would be a very serious burden, 1356–1359.

Liability of the lessees, under existing leases, to pay the poor-rate if imposed, 1360, 1361——Hardship in imposing the rate upon the landlord, 1361–1363——The rate even if paid by the landlord would most probably be made to fall on the lessee, 1364——In Somersetshire as well as South Wales it is very expedient that the iron mines be free from rates, 1365–1369——Explanation as to the Ebbu Vale Company and the Dowlais Company having commenced explorations in Devonshire and Somersetshire; the royalties are not yet fixed, 1365. 1513–1516——Great increase in the value of land and property in consequence of the mines, 1370–1375. 1391. 1438–1446——Large proportion of the rates paid by the miners' cottages, 1376–1380.

On the cottages and the works the mining interest pays an ample share of the rates, and the agriculturists have no ground for complaint, 1380–1384. 1410. 1423. 1480——Considerable employment is given by the mines to the horses of farmers, 1385. 1472——The mining population offer a ready market for the sale of agricultural produce, 1386–1390. 1472. 1483, 1484——The miners do not complain about the rating of their cottages, 1392.

General establishment of clubs, by means of which, in the event of sickness, accident, or death, the miners or their families are supported, 1395–1398——Injustice in rating mines upon the same principle as farms, on account of the exhaustion in the former case of the body of the property, 1399–1403. 1524, 1525——Opinion that the agriculturists are indirectly benefited by the mines fully to the extent of any extra poor-rate thrown upon them, 1405–1410. 1472.

Limestone, which is raised by open excavations, is rated generally at 3*d.* a ton, 1411, 1412. 1462——When iron is got from quarries a rate is imposed, 1413, 1414——In the event of mines stopping work the miners would mostly get employment elsewhere, and their families would not to any extent remain as a burden on the rates, 1417–1423——Police rates are paid on coal and on the works, 1426, 1427——The works and the coal are also rated for the highways, 1426, 1427.

Rating of the railway in connexion with the works in Trevethan parish, 1428–1432. 1485, 1486——The canals are also rated, but only at a very low amount, 1433——Good wages of the miners, 1434——Provident character of the mining population, 1435——Fewer poor among the miners than the agriculturists, 1436, 1437——Tendency of different assessments of iron works to cause an increase in the rates, 1447–1456——Payment of 2,000 *l.* a year in rates by some iron works which have been exceedingly disastrous, 1456.

Amount of the rates in Trevethan parish; the poor rate is about 4*s.* in the pound, 1457——Deduction from the royalties of collieries and from rentals in assessing the poor-rate, 1458–1461. 1511, 1512——Payment of the poor-rate in witness's parish upon the full royalty for coal, that is, 10*d.* a ton; this is an unusual and unjust case, 1461. 1512——The royalty for lime is about 3*d.* or 4*d.* a ton, 1463——Feeling generally of agriculturists in favour of the operation of mines in their neighbourhood, 1472, 1473.

Small proportion of the poor in witness's parish which are agricultural, 1477–1479——Occasional burden upon the parishes when iron works are suspended; this rarely happens, 1480–1483——Witness does not say that the royalties of iron mines should not be rated at all; they should, however, be very liberally dealt with, 1487–1491——Coal mines are

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Llewellin, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

rated too highly, and should be relieved, more especially if iron mines are rated, 1489—— Decrease in the value of land in the event of the stoppage of iron works, 1492, 1493.

Mode of assessing coal in cases where the payment is made otherwise than by royalty, 1494–1497——Less expense in working ironstone in open quarries than in mines, 1517, 1518——Higher royalty on quarries than underground workings, 1519——Circumstance of the poor-rate being high in Trevethan parish, though there is ample employment there, 1520–1523——Equal benefit to the landed interest in respect of open works which are rated, as of iron mines which are exempt, 1526–1528.

Llynvi Valley. Detailed system of rating in the case of the Llynvi Vale works, *Dobson* 1549, 1550. 1562. 1569——The ironworks are at present very heavily rated, *ib.* 1551——The collieries in the Llynvi Valley are a shifting population, *ib.* 1608.

Local Effects of Mines. See *Employment. Landed Interest. Stoppage of Mines and Migration of Miners.*

London Lead Company:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Income and Expenditure.*
3. *Amount paid in Dues.*
4. *Sick Club.*
5. *Objections to a Rate.*

1. *Generally:*

Witness has been actively engaged all his life in lead-mining operations; is now entrusted with the management of the mines of the London Lead Company, *Bainbridge* 227–232——The London Lead Company were the parties concerned in the case in which Lord Mansfield gave judgment, *ib.* 233——The Company carry on their operations at Alston Moor, Teesdale, and Weardale, *ib.* 236—— In Alston Moor the Company hold under Greenwich Hospital, on leases for twenty-one years, at a reservation of one-seventh in kind, *ib.* 237–239——The miners under the Company in Alston Moor work for wages on prospective bargains, *ib.* 240.

Sum spent annually by the Company in the carriage of ore to the smelting works and of lead to the shipping port; the local occupiers of land receive about 2,000 *l.*, or two-thirds of this amount, *Bainbridge* 316, 317——Liability of the Company, under their present leases, to pay the poor-rate, if imposed, *ib.* 320, 321. 364–366——The Company dates from the time of William and Mary, *ib.* 360——The price of the carriage of ore is fixed by the Company, *ib.* 385——Amount to which the mills or smelting works of the Company at Weardale and Teesdale are rated, *ib.* 453–455.

2. *Income and Expenditure:*

Considerable labour at times without any return; the great majority of the operations ending in losses, *Bainbridge* 241–245. 313. 338——Aggregate expenditure, on an average, of 70,000 *l.* a year on Alston Moor, *ib.* 246–249——Total of about 82,000 *l.* a year as the average annual value of the ore raised, *ib.* 250–255——Payment of nearly 12,000 *l.* a year in lord's dues, *ib.* 256——The foregoing figures show that the expenditure equals the income of the Company, *ib.* 256.

Total expenditure of the Company under different heads in 1856, *Bainbridge* 324–326——State of the affairs of the Company on witness's succeeding to the management, and at the present time; the reserve fund was at one period nearly exhausted, *ib.* 327–329—— The total profits of the Company in 1856 were from 30,000 *l.* to 40,000 *l.*, *ib.* 358, 359——Amount of capital of the Company, *ib.* 444–450——The average yearly profits during witness's management have not been 10,000 *l.* a year, *ib.* 451, 452.

Paper delivered in by Mr. Bainbridge, containing sundry particulars relative to the Company's mines, and their value, *App. p.* 295, 296.

3. *Amount paid in Dues:*

Statement (*App. p.* 296) of the average payments by the Company for lord's dues in each of the last ten years, as regards the two most important districts, that is, Teesdale and Alston Moor, *Bainbridge* 303——Total of 21,771 *l.* paid by the Company for lord's dues in 1856; amount for each district, *ib.* 322——Ten years ago the payments made by the Company to the lords were only 9,952 *l.*, *ib.* 323.

4. *Sick Club:*

Particulars as to a sick fund established in 1817, and applicable to all the mines held by the Company; how raised and how distributed, *Bainbridge* 271. 276–284. 309, 310. 551–353. 362. 459, 460. 494–497——The Company are at present contributing about 650 *l.* a year for medicines and medical attendance, irrespectively of the sick fund,

Bainbridge,

Report, 1857—*continued.*

London Lead Company—continued.

4. *Sick Club*—continued.

Bainbridge, 276. 459——The miners now contribute 30 *s.* per year per man; this is compulsory, *ib.* 277——The Company have from the first contributed about 8,000 *l.* to the fund, *ib.*

Great relief to the poor-rate through the operation of the fund, *Bainbridge* 279–281. 309, 310. 351–353. 494–497——When a miner becomes sick or unable to work he is entitled to 7 *s.* a week out of the fund, *ib.* 279. 351–353——If there were a poor-rate the miners could not be expected to keep up their present contribution of 30 *s.* a year, *ib.* 284——The contributions by the Company are entirely voluntary, *ib.* 362——The widows and orphans are not entitled to any pension, *ib.* 460——In the event of sick miners being left behind, or of miners being thrown out of employment, on the closing of a mine, they are still relieved out of the fund to which they had contributed, *ib.* 494–497.

Statistics relative to the relief in sickness given by the sick club in the several mines, *App. p.* 296.

5. *Objections to a Rate:*

Probable discontinuance of the working of the Alston Moor mines by the Company if the burden of a rate were thrown upon them, *Bainbridge* 271–274. 386–388. 490–493——Statement showing the inequality and unfairness of an assessment on the amount of the lord's dues, *ib.* 323.

See also *Alston Moor.* *Teesdale.* *Weardale.* *Westmoreland.*

Longton (*Staffordshire*). Hardship in the exemption of the ironstone mines from the highway rates, *Cope* 3287; *Higginbottom* 3307, 3308.

Lords or Owners. In the event of a rate generally, it should be made binding on the lessor, *Sopwith* 140–142——The rate, even if paid by the landlord, would most probably be made to fall on the lessee, *Bainbridge* 268–271; *Llewellin* 1364——Less injustice and less impolicy in rating the lord than the adventurer, *Bainbridge* 318–321. 363——Hardship in imposing the rate upon the lord, *Llewellin* 1361–1368——Objections to rating the lessor, *Dobson* 1574–1577. 1687–1691.

See also *Adventurers or Occupiers.* *Basis of Rate.* *Coal Mines.* *Dues or Royalty.* *Existing Leases.* *Iron Mines.*

Lowndes, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is clerk to the Wolstanton and Burslem Union, and to the Burslem and Tunstall Board of Health, 4013–4018——Statement showing the increase of late years in the population and in the poor-rates in Wolstanton and Burslem, 4019–4038——Considerable increase of population in connexion with ironstone mining in different parts of the union, 4035–4038. 4063. 4130, 4131——Sundry statistics in regard to the rateable value of the different descriptions of property in Burslem and Wolstanton, 4039–4047. 4076–4083.

Frequent instances of depreciation of land in the union in consequence of the neighbourhood of iron mines and the process of calcining; reference hereon to the compensation given by the occupiers of the mines, and to the claims of the occupiers of the land for reduction in their rates, 4048–4057. 4141–4155. 4167–4182——Small amount paid towards the rates by the miners' houses, 4058, 4059. 4121. 4185, 4186——Improvident character generally of the ironstone miners, 4060——The establishment of sick clubs is not general, 4061——Burslem is more a mining district than Wolstanton, 4062. 4125——Particulars relative to Kidsgrove district, where the population are exclusively miners, 4063–4071.

Witness considers it decidedly unfair that ironstone should be exempt from poor rates and highway rates, 4072–4074. 4183, 4184——Belief that coal is fairly rated, 4075——In Wolstanton the royalties on the ironstone mines are about 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton, 4084——The ironstone mines are being extended in Wolstanton, and are more valuable than the collieries or manufactories, 4086–4097——Strong feeling in the Wolstanton and Burslem Union against the exemption of the ironstone mines, 4098, 4099. 4136, 4137.

Statement showing the actual extent of pauperism in Burslem and Wolstanton in consequence of the ironstone mines, 4099–4110——In some instances the farmers are benefited by the mines, 4111——Besides the poor-rate of 5 *s.* in the pound, in Burslem, there is a district rate of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, 4112–4114——Total of 15,211 *l.* spent in the relief of the poor of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union in the last two years, 4115–4117——Deduction from the gross rental upon which the assessment is made, 4118–4120.

Further evidence relative to the increase of the rates in Burslem and Wolstanton, and the causes thereof, 4122 *et seq.* 4189–4214——Large proportion borne by the house property to the other rateable property, many of the houses being occupied by miners, 4126–4135. 4185–4188——Care taken in the union that the small as well as the large ratepayers pay up closely, 4138–4140.

Lowndes, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Less variation in the rates in Wolstanton than in Burslem, though the mining population has for a time increased more rapidly in the former parish, 4156-4166——The increase of the rate is largely due to the increased cost of the highways, 4193——Cost per head of in-door relief, 4194, 4195——Increase in the county rate adverted to as partly accounting for the increase generally in the Burslem rates, 4206-4214.

M.

Machinery. See *Iron Mines*, 4; *Plant.*

M'Intyre, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is Chairman of the Board of Health at Burslem, 3911——Is also chief bailiff there, and is a manufacturer of china and earthenware, 3912, 3913——Strong feeling of the Board of Health at Burslem, and of the inhabitants generally, that ironstone mines should be rated, 3914-3916. 3923. 3961——Hardship, more especially in the ironstone not being rated to the highways, 3916-3918. 3923, 3924. 3929-3932. 3958-3975——Increase of the police rate in the parish in consequence of the influx of miners from neighbouring districts, and of the excesses committed by them, 3919, 3920. 3933, 3934. 3943. 3976-3983.

In some instances the iron works in the parish are not in any way connected with collieries, 3921——Wages of the miners, 3922——Complaint in regard to the calcining of the ironstone having, as being offensive, caused some rate-payers to leave the neighbourhood, 3923, 3924. 3951, 3952——Gradual extension of the ironstone trade in the district, 3925, 3926——More profitable character of the local iron trade than of the coal or pottery trade, 3927, 3928. 3944——Belief that the lessees of the iron mines do not contribute to the support of the mining poor, 3935, 3936.

Way in which the potteries are rated; deduction from the full rental, 3938-3940——There has not been lately any re-survey with a view to an increased valuation, 3941——Opinion that the ironstone mines are as dangerous in working as the coal mines, and cause from accident or sickness their full share of paupers, 3942. 3945, 3946——Limited extent to which the rateable property is increased by the houses of miners, 3950-3957.

Slight increase in the value of the ironstone by calcination; there need be no difficulty hereon in regard to the imposition of a rate, 3958-3960. 3974, 3975. 3984-3986. Particulars as to the amount of the poor-rate in Burslem at different times; it is now 5*s.* in the pound, which heavy rate is partly attributable to the population connected with the ironstone mines, 3961. 3967-3971. 3987. 4011——Particulars relative to the rates other than the poor-rate, which come under the Board of Health; these are now 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, 3961. 3973. 4004.

Manufactories. Unduly small amount paid in rates by manufactories as compared with collieries, *Wheildon*, 3571, 3572.

Markets for Produce. See *Landed Interest.*

Mathews, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Magistrate for Staffordshire and Worcestershire; resides near Birmingham, 2439, 2440——Is largely interested in iron and coal mines in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, 2441, 2442——Irregular system upon which coal mines in Staffordshire are rated; it works satisfactorily, but is still objectionable, 2443-2445. 2483, 2484. 2507. 2514-2518——The definite principle on which coal mines should be rated has been found impracticable in the district, 2445.

Several grounds on which, as witness contends, considerable injustice is committed in the rating of collieries, 2446, 2447. 2464. 2504-2506——Great benefits conferred on the local agricultural interest by the operation of mines; instance of this in the parish of Kingswinford, where the land and its produce have been much augmented in value, 2448. 2453. 2358. 2485-2489.——Sick funds are attached to witness's collieries in Kingswinford, and to the South Staffordshire collieries generally; they are supported equally by the men and the masters, and are the means of preventing any undue burden upon the poor-rate, 2449. 2453-2456. 2458. 2495-2503.

Large contribution to the poor-rates by the ironworks, miners' cottages, and surface land, 2449. 2452. 2459. 2496. 2520-2523. 2533-2535——Reference to a paper (*App. p.* 297) showing the amount paid by witness's collieries in Kingswinford in poor's rate and highway rate in each year, since 1851; 2449——Voluntary payment of highway rates by the mine owners in the parish, 2449, 2450. 2512——Statement (*App. p.* 297) of the rateable value of the several descriptions of property in the parish, 2450-2452——Paper delivered in (*App. p.* 297) relative to sick payments at witness's collieries, 2453.

Recommendation that there be an inquiry into the whole question of mining with a view to the adjustment of all anomalies, 2457——Impolicy as well as injustice in extending to iron mines the system of rating of collieries, 2457. 2464. 2477, 2478. 2519. 2543-2548——Partial extent to which in witness's district the poor-rates are taxed

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Mathews, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

taxed with the support of the widows and children of miners, 2458. 2495-2500——Employment readily found elsewhere by miners whose labour is dispensed with in any colliery, 2458. 2549-2551——Good wages of the colliers and miners, 2460-2463.

There are a great number of coal mines in Kingswinford and a good many proprietors, 2465, 2466——The royalty on different collieries varies very considerably, 2467-2474. 2482——The proper way to rate coal or iron mines would be to capitalise the rent and to rate the interest of the capital, 2475, 2476. 2504-2506——The entire system of rating is full of anomalies; it should be re-adjusted, and should be extended to almost every description of property or income, 2476-2478. 2542-2545.

Witness objects to the principle as well as the practice of rating coal mines, 2477——Ironworks are rated much in the same way as houses, 2479-2481——Improbability of a stoppage of the mines in Kingswinford, 2490——The poor-rate in the parish is 2*s.* in the pound; it has not varied much, 2491-2494——Amicable arrangement under which the collieries pay their portion of the rates, 2507-2517.

Extent of benefit conferred on witness's collieries and iron mines by the canals, the latter being rated whilst the iron mines are exempt, 2524-2532. 2539-2541——Relative value in the aggregate of the royalty on ironstone and on coal, 2536-2538——Hardship upon existing lessees if iron mines were rated, 2545-2548——Satisfaction to farmers when new collieries are opened, 2552——Witness has never heard of any district being pauperised through the establishment of a colliery, 2553.

[Second Examination.]—If the proposed rate on iron mines were equitably based and the corpus question duly considered, dissatisfaction would not be felt by the colliery owners in witness's district, 2679-2685——If it can be proved that the burden of maintaining the mining poor in any district is thrown upon the agriculturists, it certainly is not just, 2686, 2687.

Mathews, Mr. Witness concurs in the evidence of Mr. Mathews, *Smith* 2557-2559.

Menelaus, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is one of the chief agents of the Dowlais Iron Company, the largest iron concern in South Wales, 1761-1763——Has had considerable experience in mining operations, in South Wales generally, 1764, 1765——The Dowlais Ironworks produce about 80,000 tons of finished iron in the year, 1766——Large quantity of foreign mine used of late years at the Dowlais Works in consequence of the increased expense of getting Welsh mine, 1767-1778. 1848-1856——Importance of Welsh mine on account of its good quality, 1778-1780. 1852.

Strong objection to a rate upon Welsh iron mines; inability of the mines to bear any increase of burden, 1781 *et seq.*——The royalty paid by the Dowlais Company is only 4*d.* a ton on account of the expense in getting the mine, 1782-1784——Poor-rates on the Dowlais Company's Mines would probably have prevented their being worked, 1787-1795——Investment by the Company of nearly a million of money in works and machinery, on the understanding that Welsh mine was to continue exempt from rates, 1790. 1796, 1797.

Large amount now paid by the Dowlais Company in poor-rates, &c., in respect of their furnaces and other works and machinery; the mines are thus indirectly rated, 1798-1807. 1844. 1859-1865. 1884. 1893, 1894——In Merthyr parish the Dowlais Company pay one-eighth of the entire rates, 1806, 1807. 1894——Large proportion of the Gellygare rates paid by the Company on their coal mines, 1807-1811——In Merthyr the ironworks generally pay about half the rates, 1812-1815——Improved value of other property in the parish in consequence of the iron mines, 1816, 1817.

Propriety of an amended system of rating where there are collieries and iron mines belonging to different proprietors in the same parish, 1818-1829. 1857-1865——Unremunerative character at present of the operations of the Dowlais Company, 1819. 1831-1834——Mineral property is at present overtaxed, and there should be a remodelling of the whole system, 1823-1829. 1845. 1857-1865——Way in which the Company are rated for their coal; the rate is fixed at so much per ton on the quantity raised without reference to the royalty, 1835-1843. 1875-1881.

Unfairness of the present system of rating coal, 1843. 1873-1882——Present price per ton of iron rails and pigs, 1846, 1847——Necessity of lightening the rate upon the plant if the ironstone be rated, 1857-1873——Great difficulty attendant upon the assessment of iron mines, 1866-1874——Importance of the question of a rate upon Welsh mine on account of the effect upon the price of foreign mine and the value of the coal consumed, 1885-1890——If the red ore and Welsh mine of the Dowlais Company were rated, the amount would be about 1,500*l.* a year, 1891, 1892.

Merthyr. In Merthyr parish the Dowlais Company pay one-eighth of the entire rates, *Menelaus* 1806, 1807. 1894——The ironworks generally pay about half the rates, *ib.* 1812-1815——Improved value of other property in the parish in consequence of the iron mines, *ib.* 1816, 1817——The ironworks generally in Merthyr are at present unremunerative, *ib.* 1819, 1832.

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Migration of Miners. See *Stoppage of Mines, &c.*

Miners. The lead miners in the north are not a venturesome class, and are provident and well conducted, *Sopwith* 41——Provident character of the miners in South Wales, *Struve* 920, 921. 943, 944; *James* 1151–1155. 1164; *Llewellin* 1435——Support given to aged miners in South Wales by their children, *Struve* 928. 945, 946——Fewer poor among the Welsh miners than among the agriculturists, *Llewellin* 1436, 1437.

Independent character of miners through the system of clubs, *Schneider* 2146, 2147. 2248——Provident character of the North Staffordshire miners, *Heath* 3763–3770. 3806——The Staffordshire Miners are probably more provident and better cared for by their masters than the potters, *ib.* 3823–3828.

Improvident character generally of the ironstone miners in Staffordshire, *Lowndes* 4060——Less provident and settled character of the ironstone miners than of the coal miners, *Hales* 4239–4241——Industrious and well-behaved character of the ironstone miners in Durham, *Pease* 4709——Intemperance of the colliers in South Durham, *ib.* 4710.

Free supply of coal to the colliers, in South Durham, &c., *Pease* 4674; *Taylor* 4819——The colliers are on the whole a well-conducted class, *Taylor* 4837–4840——Provident character generally of the quarrymen and miners near Bath, *Cotterell* 5233–5243.

See also *Cottages of Miners. Health of Miners. Sick Clubs, &c.*

Money Payments. Changed practice in Cornwall of late years to draw mining leases providing for money payments, in order to avoid the rates, *Berkeley* 4305, 4306; *Higman* 4411–4422——Where the royalty is reserved in the shape of a money payment, the liability to rates is held not to exist, *Rep. p.* iii.

Monkwearmouth Colliery. In the case of this colliery, which was carried on without profit, the parish charged no rate, although the royalty continued to be paid, *Dobson* 1583, 1584.

N.

Newmarket (*Flintshire*). Evidence showing that Newmarket parish is heavily rated for the pauper mines of Tallargoch, without deriving any corresponding benefit from the mine, *Jackson* 663–690. 747 *et seq.*——The poor-rates are 4 *s.* 3 *d.* in the pound, *ib.* 673——The paupers are nearly all of the mining population, *ib.* 674, 675——The farmers have elsewhere ready markets for their produce, which is not made more valuable by the presence of the miners, *ib.* 680, 681. 747. 748. 776, 777. 781–790. 801–828. 859–864——The rates in a parish adjoining Newmarket, in which there are some collieries but no lead mines, are only half as much as the rates of Newmarket, *ib.* 841.

Nixon, John. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Is proprietor of Steam Coal Collieries in the parishes of Aberdare and Llanvinno, 1895, 1896——The iron mines in these parishes are not rated to the poor whilst the collieries are rated, 1897–1899——It is extremely unfair that the iron mines should be exempt, and that the burden of their poor should be thrown entirely on the collieries, 1900 *et seq.*——The greater expense in getting Welsh mine is owing to open working becoming gradually exhausted; the same thing applies almost equally to a coal mine, 1901, 1902.

Circumstance of black band worked very profitably in the parish of Gellygare being exempt from rates; unfairness thereof, 1903–1905. 1910–1915. 1937–1941——Witness pays above 200 *l.* a year in poor-rates, 1907——Equal certainty and profit in working ironstone as coal, 1908, 1909. 1916——Unsatisfactory system on which coal mines are rated, 1922–1929——The rate borne by the plant connected with iron mines does not justify the exemption of the mine, 1930–1941.

Northumberland. See *Durham and Northumberland.*

O.

Occupiers. See *Adventurers or Occupiers.*

Open Workings or Quarries. Anomaly in the rating of ironstone raised from open workings whilst that raised from underground workings is exempt, *James* 1111–1121——Distinction between a mine and a quarry, or open working, *James* 1118–1120; *Cotterell* 5277, 5278——Higher royalty on quarries in Wales than underground workings, *Llewellin* 1519——Equal benefit to the landed interest in respect of open works, which are rated, as of iron mines, which are exempt, *ib.* 1526–1528——Particulars relative to some slate quarries of Lord Burlington in Kirkby Ireleth parish; hardship in their being rated to the poor and highways, *Eddy* 2364–2375—— Quarries generally should be exempt, *ib.* 2377.

The ironstone got by open working in North Staffordshire pays poor-rate, whilst that which is mined for is exempt, *Wynne* 2710–2715——Inexperience of witness in regard to quarries and other open works; injustice of rating these upon capital, *Whieldon* 4348–

Open Workings or Quarries—continued.

3566——Injustice in rating quarries and other open works as well as mines on the royalty; they should be rated on the interest only of the royalty, *Wragge* 3738–3740——Rating of the open clay workings in Staffordshire on a deduction from the quantity obtained, *Hales* 4276, 4277——Reference to the slate quarries in St. Neot's parish as being rated, *Berkeley* 4353–4355.

Witness, who is a surveyor at Bath, is connected with almost all the oolitic quarries in the neighbourhood, *Cotterell* 5196–5199——Names of the principal proprietors of these quarries, *ib.* 5200——Terms upon which the quarries are let to the occupiers, *ib* 5201–5204——The underground quarries are never rated to the relief of the poor, but the open quarries are all rated, *ib.* 5205. 5215——Basis of the rate in the case of open quarries; there has been much dissatisfaction but no actual disputes, *ib.* 5206–5215. 5229——Instances of open workings being changed into underground workings, upon which they have ceased to be rateable, *ib.* 5213–5215.

Great anomaly in the exemption of close workings whilst open workings are rateable; expediency of the former being rated as well as the latter, *Cotterell* 5216–5232. 5275. 5276——Proportionate value of the royalties, and of the rateable value otherwise, in the parishes of Moncton, Combe, and Box, *ib.* 5218–5227——Belief, that the increased number of quarrymen has not led to an increased poor-rate, *ib.* 5243–5245——Circumstance of some open workings having been turned into close workings expressly for the sake of avoiding the rates, *ib.* 5246–5250——Estimate of from six to eight years' purchase as the value of freestone quarries near Bath, *ib.* 5294.

Destruction of the surface by open quarries adverted to as a reason for their rateability, *Randell* 5301–5310.

Open mineral workings, quarries and coal mines are deemed to be rateable, and are rated in all cases, *Rep. p.* iii.——Open mineral workings, or quarries, and close mines should, as far as rating is concerned, be placed on the same footing, *ib.*

See also *Clay Works.* *Iron Mines*, 8. *Limestone.*

Opening of Mines. Witness spent 25,000 *l.* or 30,000 *l.* on his mines in Lancashire before he got any return. *Schneider* 2151——Considerable expense in opening coal mines, *Taylor* 4824–4827.

P.

Park Mine (*Lancashire*). Statement relative to the Earl of Burlington's iron mines, more especially the Park Mine, in Dalton; they are leased to Mr. Schneider, and are exempt from poor-rates, *Currey* 2934–2047——If the Park Mine were rated it would have to pay as much as all the rest of the parish, *ib.* 2102–2104.

Witness's largest mine is the Park Mine, in the Low Furness district, *Schneider* 2107, 2108——After an immense outlay on the mine witness was on the point of abandoning it when he discovered a deposit of ore, which is now proving very remunerative, *ib.* 2109, 2110——The produce has increased from 10,000 tons the first year to 150,000 tons the present year, *ib.* 2110——The value of the ore is about 11 *s.* a ton, *ib.* 2111, 2112——The royalty, which is not rated, is about 1 *s.* 3 *d.* a ton, *ib.* 2113, 2114——The Park Mine has never thrown any person connected with it upon the poor-rates, *ib.* 2118. 2124–2127——The population of the district has largely increased in consequence of the mines, *ib.* 2119. 2124. 2127.

Particulars relative to the constitution and operation of a club attached to the mine for the relief of the miners and their families in the event of sickness or accident, *Schneider* 2124. 2131, 2132. 2146. 2248——There is a deduction of 18 *s.* a year from every man who earns more than a certain amount, *ib.* 2124——In the event of the miners not earning beyond the amount specified witness pays the 18 *s.*, *ib.*

Benefits conferred on the agricultural population by the miners, *Schneider* 2127–2130. 2143–2145. 2147, 2153——If the Park Mine were rated the poor would then be thrown upon the parish instead of being supported by the contributions made towards the club, *ib.* 2131. 2145——Improbability of an exhaustion of the mine, and of the miners being consequently thrown upon the parish, *ib.* 2133, 2134——The plant connected with the mine is not rated, *ib.* 2135——Policy of the system adopted in the mine for the support of the miners in sickness, *ib.* 2146, 2147.

See also *Dalton* (*Lancashire*). *Tramways.*

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2. *Injury rather than Benefit to the Land in consequence of the Iron Mines.*
3. *Amount of the Rates as affected by the Mines.*
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Wragge, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Lord Granville's collieries and ironstone mines and works in Stoke-upon-Trent, &c.; considerable extent of these, 3575–3579. 3627–3629——The workers in these mines have mostly come from other districts, 3580, 3581. 3660–3662——Great increase of buildings in the district in consequence of the mines, 3582–3585——Considerable increase in the value of rateable property; the increase fully compensates for the pauperism of miners, 3582. 3660. 3726–3729.

Attention paid by Lord Granville and the North Staffordshire coal and iron masters generally to the education of the miners, 3586——Considerable amount of subscriptions by miners to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, 3587–3590——About 800,000 tons of ironstone are got in the district, 3593, 3594.

Particulars as to the want of uniformity of system in the rating of collieries in North Staffordshire; strong objections thereto, 3595–3605. 3645–3648. 3718–3725——Objectionable mode of assessment in the case of a colliery managed by witness, 3602–3605. 3618–3626. 3645–3648——Unfairness in taking the royalty on coal mines as the basis of assessment, 3605–3611. 3614–3617——Objection to the term "rating"; the property is sold rather than leased, and the rate is in fact a tax, 3609, 3610. 3686–3688. 3707——Witness considers that collieries and other mines should be rated, provided it be done on a just and uniform principle, 3611. 3649. 3685–3688. 3705–3707. 3727, 3728.

The interest of the royalty and not the royalty itself, which is capital, should be rated, 3612–3617. 3659. 3731–3737——All erections and surface property connected with mines should be rated, 3618. 3737——Improper manner in which engines, furnaces, &c., are now assessed, 3618–3621——Remarks on the rates as paid by the earthenware or pottery manufactories; moderate assessment in these cases, 3630–3632. 3681–3683. 3689——Varying system in regard to the amount of royalties paid by the lessees to the grantors, 3633–3644. 3702.

Failure of many of the speculations in iron and coal mines in witness's district, 3650–3654——Previously to getting produce from the coal mines and to the levying of the rate, there is not much new population introduced, 3655–3658——The ironstone mines in the district are more valuable than the coal mines, and employ more hands, 3663–3673——Belief that the engines and engine-houses connected with the iron mines are rated; they ought to be rated, 3673–3680. 3703, 3704——Equal reason for a rate on the ironstone as on the coal, 3685.

Question as to the propriety of rating furnaces and tramroads as well as the royalty, 3690–3698. 3730——Objection to taking a certain proportion of the selling value of the produce as the basis of assessment, 3699–3702——The rate should fall on the lessee, 3707——Liability of the collieries managed by witness to a rate for improvements, under a local Act, 3708–3718——Injustice in rating quarries and other open works, as well as mines, on the royalty; they should be rated on the interest only of the royalty, 3738–3740.

Wynne, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Government Inspector of Mines; was previously engaged in collieries in Staffordshire, 2688–2694——The largest coal mines in North Staffordshire are in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent; they are part coal and part iron, 2695–2697——Stoke-upon-Trent is a large parish and a union in itself, and the poor-rate is about 3*s.* in the pound, 2698–2702——The royalties on the coal mines vary from about 8*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a ton, 2705, 2706.

In assessing the coal mines about one-eighth of the selling price is taken as the royalty, and a deduction of one-sixth is made in levying the rate, 2707——Land and buildings are also assessed after a deduction of one-sixth, 2708, 2709——Witness considers that the rate on coal mines is unjustly heavy, and that there should be a deduction of one-half instead of one-sixth from the royalty, on which to base the rate, 2709. 2790–2792. 2823–2829. 2833. 2861–2863. 2872, 2873. 2886, 2887. 2906, 2907.

Report, 1857—*continued.*

Wynne, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The ironstone got by open working in North Staffordshire pays poor-rate, whilst that which is mined for is exempt, 2710–2715——In Stoke-upon-Trent the agriculturists are dependent chiefly on the pottery population for the sale of their produce, 2716–2718——Constant complaint on the part of agriculturists, colliers, and other parties that the ironstone is exempt from rates, 2719, 2720. 2767–2769. 2790. 2799. 2806——Relative value of the coal and of the ironstone raised in Stoke-upon-Trent and other important mining parishes in the district, 2721–2734.

Reference to some limestone quarries in North Staffordshire which are rated to the poor on the full royalty; the proprietors feel aggrieved by the rate, 2735–2751——The land used for agriculture is quite equal in value to the mineral property in North Staffordshire, 2753——Comparative frequency of accidents in mines, 2754——Large number of mining accidents in the parishes of Burslem and Wolstanton, and large number of mining poor thrown upon the rates, 2754–2766. 2800–2803. 2898–2900——Hardship in the exemption of the ironstone mines in Wolstanton, 2760–2789.

Grievance in the agriculturists having to repair roads used mainly by the owners of ironstone mines, 2769–2771. 2794. 2797——Profitable character of some of the iron mines in witness's district, whereas they pay no rates, 2772–2783. 2879–2882——Although the corpus of the mine is exhaustible, still when exhausted there is no longer any rate to pay, 2791. 2847——The hardship of the rate on collieries is aggravated by the exemption of iron mines, 2792. 2804–2806. 2825, 2826. 2835. 2862. 2870. 2877——Injustice in ironstone being raised in one parish and converted in another, the rates on the furnaces being paid to the wrong parish, 2793–2795. 2860. 2885.

Hardship to the ratepayers in the Charnock Valley through the exemption of the iron mines, 2795–2797——Witness is strongly of opinion that iron mines should be rated, but the rate should not be levied in the same unjust way as the rate on collieries, that is, on nearly the full royalty; one-half the royalty should be deducted, 2798–2806. 2823–2835. 2861–2863. 2869–2878. 2886–2897. 2901–2907——A considerable portion of the ironstone in North Staffordshire is raised from mines not containing coal as well, but the larger portion is gotten from works connected with coal mines, 2807. 2815–2821. 2879.

Reference to the exemption of the White Barn iron mine as a case of great hardship; the coal used in the works and raised by pits is also exempt, 2807–2813——The coal is not assessed if used in the iron works, 2813, 2814——Existing lessees should be protected if ironstone be rated, 2822——In respect to local employment mines are generally a benefit to a neighbourhood, 2836——In North Staffordshire there is no definite system of sick clubs for the support of the miners, 2837, 2838.

Doubt as to the machinery and furnaces for converting iron being rated too highly, 2840–2860——As a general rule all exceptions to rating should, if possible, be done away with, 2845, 2846. 2864–2868——There is more profit on the ironstone than the coal in the North Staffordshire district, 2879–2882——The plant used merely in raising the ironstone is of small value, and does not pay much towards the rates, 2883–2885.